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Parks and Recreation Contra Costa County

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RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN FOR
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

County pl. Contra Costa Co
Recreation County " " "

Prepared by the
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
July 1970

Approved by the
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
September 15, 1970

Adopted by the
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
December 8, 1970



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IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

December 8, 1970

In the Matter of

Recreation Element of the
General Plan for Contra Costa
County

The Board on November 17, 1970 having continued to this date the hearing on a Recreation Element of the General Plan for Contra Costa County, and having heard and evaluated all testimony thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE, on the recommendation of the Planning Commission of Contra Costa County, and on motion of Supervisor J. E. Moriarty, seconded by Supervisor A. M. Dias, IT IS BY THE BOARD ORDERED that the Recreation Element of the General Plan for Contra Costa County as approved by the Contra Costa County Planning Commission on September 15, 1970, is ADOPTED.

The foregoing order was passed by the following vote of the Board:

AYES: Supervisors J. P. Kenny, A. M. Dias,
J. E. Moriarty, E. A. Linscheid.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Supervisor T. J. Coll.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an order entered on the minutes of said Board of Supervisors on the date aforesaid.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the
Board of Supervisors
affixed this 8th day of December, 1970
W. T. PAASCH, Clerk

By Dorothy Lazzarini, Deputy Clerk
Dorothy Lazzarini

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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

The functions of a recreation element in a comprehensive general plan are 1) to provide adequate planning for the recreational lands and facilities necessary to fit the needs and desires of the citizens of the community and 2) to integrate these plans with the other elements of the general plan to insure the best overall design for the community.

In keeping with these concepts, Section 65303 of the State of California Government Code makes the recreation element an integral part of the general plan. A recreation element as defined by this statute is a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation, including the following and, when practicable, their locations and proposed development:

1. Natural reservations
2. Parks
3. Parkways
4. Beaches
5. Playgrounds
6. Other recreation areas

In addition, Section 11546 of the State Business and Professions Code makes the adoption of a recreation element a requisite for any city or county government wishing to exercise a subdivision parkland dedication ordinance.

The County's role in park planning is twofold. On one hand the County prepares plans for recreation facilities that serve the County population as a whole as well as coordinating park and recreation efforts of all jurisdictions on a countywide basis. At the same time, because a significant proportion of Contra Costa County's population lives in unincorporated communities, it is also incumbent upon the County to evaluate and plan for the specific recreational needs of each of these communities.

Therefore, this element is divided into two component plans. The *Major Parks Plan* covers the large recreation areas which serve the entire County population while the *Local Parks Plan* covers the specific neighborhood and community park needs of each of the County's unincorporated communities. The two component plans review the existing situation as to the number and distribution of park facilities, establish standards, and make recommendations for future parks consistent with existing and future needs. Other component plans for specific types of recreational activities, such as a riding and hiking trails plan, can be added to the element at a later date.

Any part of a county general plan such as this element must also take into consideration the plans and programs of other jurisdictions affecting the County. In preparing the *Major Parks Plan*, the plans and programs of the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Association

of Bay Area Governments, the East Bay Regional Park District, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, and the cities within the County were taken into consideration. The *Local Parks Plan* includes the adopted plans of the cities and recreation and parks districts. It includes the recommendations of the cities for areas outside of their jurisdiction but within their area of concern when consistent with the criteria set forth in this element.

Planning for park and recreation facilities requires looking at planning for open spaces as well. Most large parks fall into the category of open space while large tracts of presently undeveloped land form potential sites for future park development. Open space lands perform other functions such as providing for agriculture, forest preserves, and watersheds. A complete open space study is presently scheduled as a part of the County's long-range planning effort. The Open Spaces Study will culminate in a separate Open Spaces Element to the County General Plan.

For the purposes of this element only the existing distribution, type, and extent of open space lands were considered. Table 1 below gives the total amount of open space and recreational land in the County, while Map 1 graphically displays the distribution of these lands in relation to existing and proposed urban development. Because of the small scale of the map, local parks are not shown. The extent of open space lands in Contra Costa County is presently sufficient to provide for gross future park needs. However, the Open Spaces Element will be needed to insure that open space lands in the proper location to future urban development will be preserved for recreational purposes.

TABLE 1

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL LANDS Contra Costa County, California

<u>Recreational Land Use</u>	22,276 acres
California Department of Parks & Recreation	10,482 acres
East Bay Regional Park District	8,785 acres
Cities of Contra Costa County ¹	2,232 acres
East Bay Municipal Utility District ²	925 acres
<u>Agricultural Land Use</u>	344,405 acres
General Agriculture	308,000 acres
Agricultural Preserve ³	36,405 acres
<u>Federal Government Lands</u> ⁴	13,329 acres
<u>East Bay Municipal Utility District</u> ⁵	<u>19,869 acres</u>
Total Open Space	400,027 acres

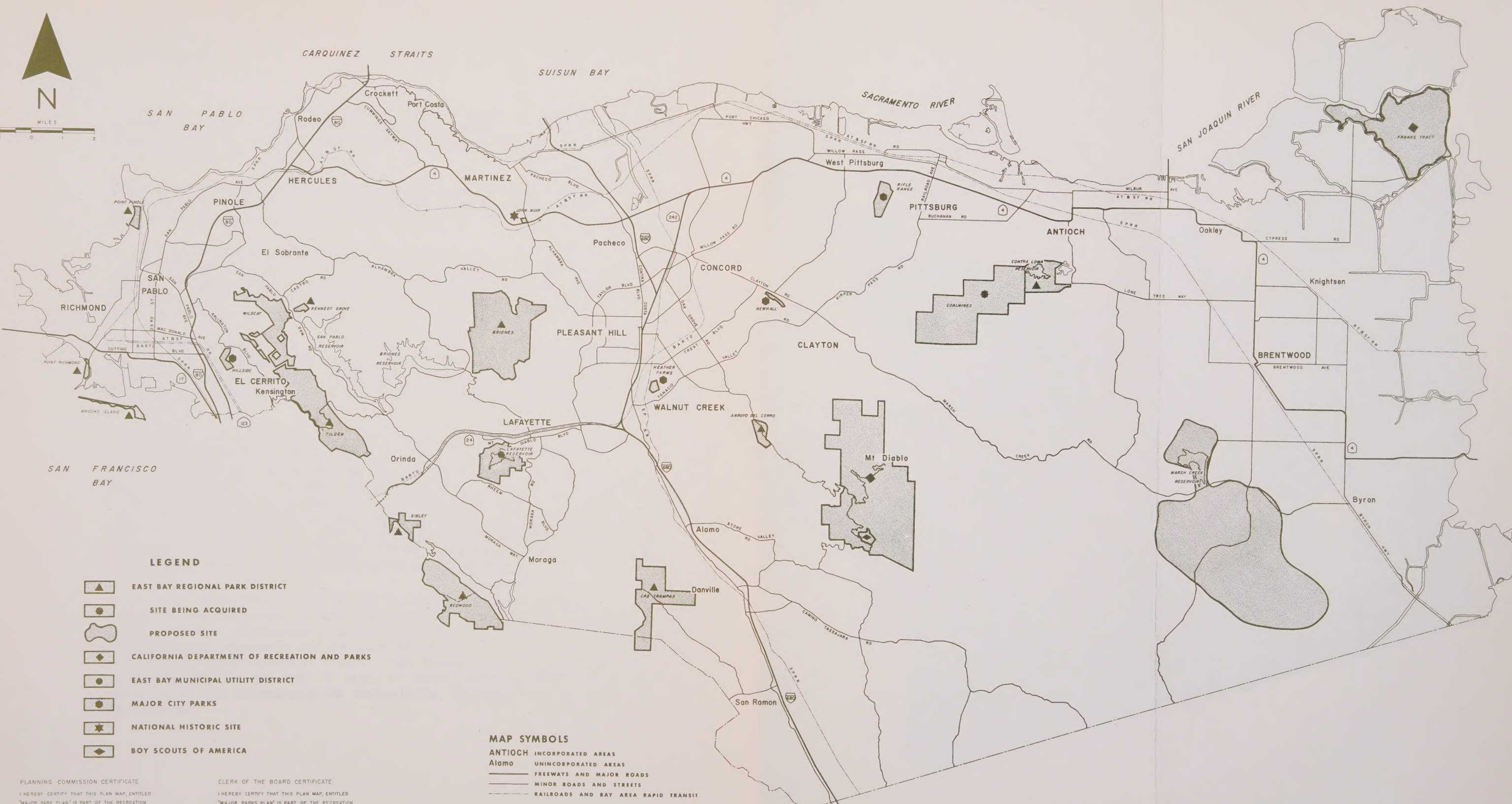
¹ Figure is total of all land under the jurisdiction of the city parks departments. It includes ground of public buildings, road rests, and golf courses as well as parks.

² Lafayette reservoir and park only.

³ Land under the Williamson Act.

⁴ This includes 12,413 acres under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Navy and 916 acres under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration.

⁵ Watershed and other land holdings.



LEGEND

- EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
- SITE BEING ACQUIRED
- PROPOSED SITE
- CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
- EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
- MAJOR CITY PARKS
- NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
- BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

- MAP SYMBOLS**
- ANTIOCH INCORPORATED AREAS
 - ALAMO UNINCORPORATED AREAS
 - FREEWAYS AND MAJOR ROADS
 - MINOR ROADS AND STREETS
 - RAILROADS AND BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT

PLANNING COMMISSION CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN MAP, ENTITLED "MAJOR PARKS PLAN" IS PART OF THE RECREATION ELEMENT AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN ADOPTED BY THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ON THE 15th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1970

Andrew H. Young
ANDREW H. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

Anthony A. Demasus
ANTHONY A. DEMASUS, SECRETARY

BASE MAP PREPARED BY THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - MARTINEZ
CALIFORNIA 94553 - JULY, 1970

CLERK OF THE BOARD CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN MAP, ENTITLED "MAJOR PARKS PLAN" IS PART OF THE RECREATION ELEMENT AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ON THE 8th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1970

W. J. Pasch
W. J. PASCH, COUNTY CLERK

MAJOR PARKS PLAN, 1970

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

CALIFORNIA

SUMMARY

A survey of major and local park facilities in Contra Costa County was conducted in the summer of 1969. From this survey, the pattern of present park facilities can be seen and the problems facing park planning can be determined.

By knowing what the existing problems are, one can then establish goals and objectives in seeking solutions to these problems and means of implementing programs to provide desired park and recreation facilities.

In 1969 there was a total of eighteen major parks (21,773 acres), ninety-seven local parks (701 acres), and four public and twelve private golf courses (2,066 acres). Tables 2 and 3 in Appendix A give the listings of all major and local park facilities, their acreage, state of development, and the jurisdiction operating the facility.

These park facilities are provided by a number of agencies including the federal government, the state, special district, the various cities in the County, and a number of private groups. Each has its own program for park development and there is little coordination between the various agencies.

Major parks are provided by the State Department of Parks and Recreation and by the East Bay Regional Park District. In the case of major parks, there is sufficient gross acreage to serve the present needs of the County's residents. The East Bay Regional Park District is engaged in an acquisition program to provide for future needs as well. Because parkland acquisition requires a high capital outlay, the East Bay Regional Park District has not been able to develop all of the lands that it has acquired. This means that actual use of the park facilities will have to be deferred until the acquisition program is completed.

There are ninety-seven local parks in the County. Ninety-four are within the incorporated cities of the County, while only four serve the unincorporated areas. Preliminary figures from the 1970 Census, however, indicate that approximately 171,000 population out of a total of 544,000 live in the unincorporated areas. Even though some of the unincorporated areas fall within the service areas of local parks in the cities, the majority of the unincorporated communities, in fact, have no local park facilities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to combat the problems and deficiencies noted in the summary, the following goals and objectives have been formulated. It should be noted that the goals cover the overall park and recreation needs of the County. The objectives, on the other hand, are short range in nature and are the means of achieving the stated goals.

GOALS

1. To obtain a sufficient acreage and distribution of major park lands to insure that the present and future needs of the County's residents will be met and to preserve areas of natural beauty or historical interest for future generations.
2. To obtain a well-balanced distribution of local parks, which is related to character and intensity of present and planned residential development.
3. To obtain a quality of park design that is appropriate to the recreational needs and access capabilities of all of the people in the locality.

OBJECTIVES

1. To complete a comprehensive study of all open space lands in the County to determine what areas are most suitable for future park development.
2. To coordinate with the various school districts in the County to provide for the joint use of facilities.
3. To work with the local unincorporated communities to determine means of providing local park services where the need presently exists.
4. To have the County government coordinate means at its disposal to obtain optimum recreation facilities development.

Major Parks



IMPLEMENTATION

There are several means of achieving the stated goals and objectives. Some, such as enactment of a park land dedication ordinance and conducting a comprehensive study of open space lands, are already underway or scheduled. However, in order to create the actual park facilities themselves, there needs to be some form of governmental organization established to acquire the land and to develop and operate the facilities. The various forms of government that are involved in the acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities are listed below:

1. Regional Park District - The East Bay Regional Park District presently provides major park facilities for the majority of the County's residents. However, the eastern part of the County is not a part of the District and cannot benefit from the District's services.
2. Countywide Local Park System - Division 5, Chapter 2 of the State Public Resources Code authorizes the County to acquire, develop, and operate local parks. Such a system would have the advantage of countywide coordination of all recreation facilities. However, before such a system could be implemented, there would need to be the creation of a unit within county government to administer the system.
3. Recreation and Park District - Chapter 4 of the State Public Resources Code authorizes the formation of such districts. Two approaches to providing park facilities through this type of district might be made.
 - a. Formation of a countywide park and recreation district. This would have the advantage of countywide coordination of park facilities without the necessity of creating a unit within county government. Such a district could have its own elected board and staff. Also, such a district would enable cities to join the district if any so desired.
 - b. Formation of recreation and park districts encompassing only a limited area. These districts would encompass only individual communities within the County. Such a district would have the advantage of giving the local community a little more voice in its own park development but would suffer from a narrower tax base. The limited tax base would restrict the district's ability to implement park programs.
4. County (Recreation and Park) Service Area - Under the provision of Part 2, Chapter 2.2 of the State Government Code, the County may provide local park services by means of county service areas. Although the County Board of Supervisors serves as the governing body in this type of district, a Local Citizen Advisory Committee provides guidance to the Board in the administration of this agency.

Again, as with a local park system, operation and maintenance of local park facilities would have to be provided by the County.

5. Community Service Districts - Title 6 of the State Government Code allows for the establishment of community service districts. This type of district can provide numerous services, one of which is park and recreational facilities. The district would be governed by an elected board. This type of district would be most suitable for a community desiring other services in addition to parks and recreation.

The above listed methods of obtaining park and recreation facilities are not mutually exclusive. Any combination of park and recreation districts, county service areas, and city-provided services can be used to develop parks. The methods used will depend on the needs and desires of the County's residents for park and recreational facilities.

MAJOR PARKS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

A major park provides service to the County, or to a large portion of the County, and is usually in excess of one hundred acres in size. These parks frequently form natural reservations of open space, preserving features of natural beauty or of historical interest.

The provision of major parks to serve the urbanized areas is essential to the physical and mental well-being of all segments of their populations as these parks form a counterpoint to the often intense pace of urban life. Here people can enjoy forms of active and passive recreation not available to them elsewhere, such as hiking, riding, or nature studies. Here one may also camp overnight enjoying a completely different mode of living from that of the city. Major parks offer the opportunity to enjoy the natural landscape in all her splendor and, conversely, it is through the creation of these parks that one can conserve the many resources of nature.

Contra Costa County, at the present time, enjoys an outstandingly beautiful countryside of diversified character. Open space lands are still close enough in the centers of urban development to allow the residents of the County to reach the open countryside within a few minutes driving time from their homes. The task at hand then is to preserve additional open space land for recreational purposes ahead of urban development for future generations.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As of January 1, 1970, there were eighteen major parks totaling 21,773 acres in Contra Costa County. Of these, 3,676 acres were in major bodies of water. The remainder was land of varying topography. These parks are administered by five different agencies, each of which has its own plans and programs for development. This component plan outlines the programs of each of the agencies and will aid in the coordination and effectuation of the various programs.

The two primary agencies administering major parks in Contra Costa County are the State Department of Parks and Recreation and the East Bay Regional Parks District. The State Department of Parks and Recreation operates two parks, Mt. Diablo State Park and Frank's Tract State Recreation Area. These parks are intended to serve the population of the Bay Area as a whole, not just the residents of Contra Costa County. Because these two parks are a part of the overall state park system, the type and stage of development is governed by priorities set by the state. A more detailed description of these park facilities is included under Existing Major Parks.

The East Bay Regional Park District is a bi-county district encompassing the major parts of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This District maintains nine parks within Contra Costa County. These parks are designed to

serve all segments of the County's population. The East Bay Regional Park District performs the function of providing major park facilities normally performed by a county government. The creation of a special district encompassing two counties, however, has allowed for a broader tax base and for the joint use of parks, thus avoiding a duplication of effort by the two counties. The East Bay Regional Park District presently has another five parks planned within the County.

Other agencies operating major parks in Contra Costa County include the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Cities of Concord, Pittsburg, El Cerrito and Walnut Creek. The U. S. National Park Service also maintains the John Muir National Historic Site which, while not a major park in size, is of historic significance to the County. A detailed description of each of these facilities is contained under Existing Major Parks.

There are presently sufficient gross acreages of major parks within Contra Costa County for present and immediate future needs. However, if the impact of our major parks has not yet been felt by large segments of our population, this is mainly due to two factors:

1. Lack of facilities available in some of the parks recently acquired by the East Bay Regional Park District. Here, the development of parks was postponed in favor of additional site acquisition. In view of the rapid urbanization of the County, this was the intelligent choice because, while the available funds are expended in acquisition, the land is acquired while it is still available and time is gained during which the District can plan the specific kinds of development which will take place in each of these new parks. Great care must be taken that the development of facilities, while serving the largest number and variety of population, does not destroy the plant and wildlife of the park that made the park site attractive in the first place.
2. Lack of adequate access to some of the parks. A number of parks within the East Bay Regional Park system lying along the crest of the Berkeley Hills have no access from the Contra Costa County side. This is especially true of Sibley and Redwood Regional Parks. Other parks such as Briones Regional Park and Frank's Tract State Recreation Area have poor access from any direction.

Thus, the major problems that emerge concerning major park facilities are lack of development within many of the existing major parks and poor access to the parks. Another problem not immediately apparent, but which could present difficulties in the future, is the acquisition of sufficient lands for major parks to serve the County's population in newly developing areas. The present Major Parks Plan is based on available General Plan land use and population distributions. Inasmuch as longer range general plans are now being prepared by the County and several of its cities, it will also be necessary to review and update this major Parks Plan within the next several years.

EXISTING AND PROPOSED MAJOR PARK FACILITIES

The major park facilities in Contra Costa County are maintained by a number of different jurisdictions. Map 3 shows the locations of all existing facilities, the operating agency, and proposed new parks or additions to existing facilities. The existing facilities of each agency and proposed expansion programs are discussed below.

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

When the voters of Contra Costa County decided to annex to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) in 1964¹, they secured for themselves the services and facilities of a well established park agency. They were already familiar with the quality of work performed by this district, for three of its parks, Tilden, Roundtop², and Redwood, straddling the County line, and others could easily be visited in neighboring Alameda County.

EBRPD is now a two-county district and its services are growing rapidly. From its formation in 1934 the district has acquired 22,250 acres and administers a total of nineteen parks. Of these, nine parks totaling 9,637 acres are located in Contra Costa County. The district has a program underway to acquire several additional park sites in the County.

Briones Regional Park

This is truly a regional park, offering the experience of wilderness to an estimated one-half million people living within a ten-mile radius. The park includes 3,100 acres at this time; a few additional minor land acquisitions in the north, east, and west of the property will assure geographical integrity.

Briones is only partly developed at this time. Camping is available to groups only, a 20-acre archery range was installed in the southeast portion of the park, and construction of a Children's Environmental Play Area is underway. Hiking trails and picnic facilities are also offered.

Brooks Island

This is a new acquisition which is expected to be in operation in the summer of 1971. The small island covering 77 acres in San Francisco Bay will be accessible only by boat and will offer an interpretative archeological facility in its extensive Indian shell mounds. Its value for historical education purposes will be unparalleled in California. There will be a swimming beach on the north side and some picnic facilities. The small size of the island will heighten the sense of adven-

¹The annexation to EBRPD on June 2, 1964, included all of Contra Costa County except the Liberty Union High School District in the eastern part of the County.

²Later renamed Sibley.

ture in visiting it, but it will also necessitate careful planning in its use. The boat ride is expected to be tied in with a proposed EBRPD facility at Point Richmond.

Contra Loma

Contra Loma is a facility leased from the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Contra Costa Water District. Located in the midst of hot, dry grasslands south of the industrial City of Antioch, it offers a most welcome outing for families interested in boating, fishing and swimming. With the maturing of massive plantings of shade trees, the site will become more of a park and be useful for extended visits. Access is from Lone Tree Way. The park covers 772 acres.

Kennedy Grove

Located east of the City of Richmond near San Pablo Reservoir, this park of 95 acres offers community park type facilities among giant eucalyptus woods. The high use demand here will be better served by the construction of additional access roads with parking areas.

Las Trampas

Las Trampas is planned as a wilderness park of 1,335 acres. Its close proximity to the City of Walnut Creek and to the vast San Ramon Valley will greatly benefit these communities. The Castro Valley area to the west in Alameda County also can be expected to generate visitors. A smaller portion of the park site is actually located in Alameda County.

The high ridges of the park will be accessible on foot or horseback only and will afford a magnificent view toward Mt. Diablo to the northeast. Access is currently designed to be from the north end of Bollinger Canyon Road. Parking and day-use facilities will be installed here.

Redwood

Redwood Park, two-thirds of which is located in Alameda County, is a fully developed park used mostly by the people of Oakland. Even though 755 acres of this park are located in Contra Costa County, there is no access from the Contra Costa side. Future urban development in Moraga adjacent to the park will necessitate access to this park.

Sibley (Roundtop)

Currently undeveloped except for some riding and hiking trails, this park will become much better known when trails connect it to Redwood to the southeast and Tilden to the northwest. As with Redwood, this park has no access from the Contra Costa side. Future development of the park should include access from the Contra Costa as well as the Alameda County side.

Tilden

A major, well developed and highly used park of 2,046 acres, Tilden is frequently thought of as a Berkeley, rather than a Contra Costa County

park. However, the exploration of its many attractions, both natural and man-made, offers a new dimension to the residents of Contra Costa County.

Wildcat Canyon

This park continues the chain of regional parks along the crest of the Berkeley Hills into the industrial City of Richmond. It provides a most welcome area of open space to a quarter-million people living in nearby cities. The rough topography of the park will dictate careful facilities planning for maximum usability. Currently, only a short access road is available. The park encompasses 1,335 acres.

Future EBRPD Parks

Coalmines Park

The most immediate acquisition of new parklands is expected to be a portion of the Coalmines area west to southwest of existing Contra Loma. Additional parcels south of here should make this park one of the largest of the district.

The historical cities of Nortonville and Sommerville are located here. The area is of considerable scenic value with picturesque rock walls and conspicuous vegetation. Some of the very exciting caves and caverns are expected to remain open.

More than fifty percent of the County's population lives within a one-half hour's driving time of the site.

Marsh-Kellog Park

The Marsh property, home of pioneer Dr. Marsh, has a great park potential and should be preserved. However, funds for acquisition might not become available for some time.

Upper Kellog reservoir park would include a marina and picnic facilities. This park will be in conjunction with a U. S. Bureau of Reclamation reservoir.

Arroyo Del Cerro

Arroyo Del Cerro on Pine Creek east of the City of Walnut Creek will be another leased reservoir facility. Its major advantage lies in its close proximity to the central County cities.

Waterfront Parks

In the west County, two small waterfront facilities are planned at Point Pinole and Point Richmond. Both are going to attract full capacity usage since water access parks near industrial communities are most welcome. Other waterfront parks along the Carquinez Straits and Suisun Bay are desired, but difficult to obtain because of the predominantly heavy industrial use along the entire waterfront.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

The State Department of Recreation and Parks maintains two major parks in Contra Costa County. These parks are a part of the state park system and serve all of the residents of the Bay Area. The state has no present plans to acquire and develop additional parks in Contra Costa County.

Frank's Tract State Recreation Area

This park, covering 3,400 acres, is almost entirely open water. It was formed when the waters of the San Joaquin River broke through the levees of Frank's Tract Island leaving an immense shallow expanse of water. The park is maintained for water-oriented recreational activities such as fishing and boating.

Future development in the form of a family-oriented park nearby would be most desirable. This could also provide much needed barbeque and sanitary facilities, as well as some playground equipment.

Mt. Diablo State Park

Mt. Diablo State Park includes a block of mountains in the center of the County of which Mt. Diablo, with a peak elevation of 3,849 feet, is the most prominent. The peak is used mostly for the enjoyment of the view afforded from its top. Because of the steep slopes, active recreation is limited to rugged hiking and to camping. During infrequent snowfalls, Mt. Diablo gains a new importance for children. The park covers an area of 7,080 acres.

In the southerly portion of Mt. Diablo, but totally surrounded by it, lies a 97-acre parcel of land which is used as a wilderness park by the Boy Scouts of America, Mt. Diablo Boy Scout Council. The Council is composed of the scout groups of Contra Costa County and those of the City of Berkeley.

PARK FACILITIES OF THE EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is a water district serving the cities in the south and west of Contra Costa County. Its land holdings in Contra Costa County are extensive. About 26,000 acres include the reservoirs of San Pablo, Briones, Lafayette and, partly, San Leandro. A fifth reservoir is planned for the Pinole Valley, to be built in 1980 or later.

In 1966 EBMUD opened their lands for recreation with the development of the Lafayette reservoir site. The lake was opened to the public for fishing and boating, a peripheral road provides for cycling, and there are hiking trails and barbeque facilities to be found in the surrounding woods. The boathouse and visitors center are of outstanding design.

Plans for an extensive recreation area along the southwest shore of San Pablo Reservoir are being considered and another major park will be developed in the foreseeable future on upper San Leandro Reservoir, near the community of Moraga.

The creation of these highly scenic parks within close proximity to the urban centers of the East Bay provides an outstanding additional service by the East Bay Municipal District.

MAJOR PARKS UNDER CITIES' JURISDICTION

If one assumes that the criteria for a major park is either its prominent size (in excess of 100 acres) or its unique qualities which invite visitors from the entire region instead of just from the local population, then select city parks must also be listed as major parks.

In Contra Costa County we have four such park sites at this time.

Newhall Community Park

Yet undeveloped, Newhall Community Park is located in the easterly portion of the City of Concord and administered by same. In addition to the usual community park facilities, camping, hiking, and equestrian trails are being planned. Construction of park facilities has been delayed pending freeway alignment through this general area.

Stoneman Rifle Range Park

Stoneman Rifle Range Park of the City of Pittsburg consists of 300 acres of level land. At the present time a pistol and rifle range are maintained and a golf course is being planned. The area is also suitable for hiking and horseback riding.

Hillside Park

This park of 148 acres is located in the City of El Cerrito. Though much of the park is undeveloped steep hillsides, there are trails developed and a dedicated grove.

Heather Farms

Heather Farms Park in the City of Walnut Creek consists of 67 acres. Though this is below the usual 100 acre standard the facilities offered here, including boating, fishing and a nature preserve, make it a park of County-wide significance.

NATIONAL PARKS - HISTORIC SITE

The John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, California, offers the visitor a glimpse into the life of John Muir, conservationist, instrumental in the creation of the National Parks and U. S. Forest Service.

The home rather reflects the mode of building around the 1880s, but the orchards and gardens surrounding it, now under reconstruction, will more truly recapture the spirit of this great man to whom we owe thanks.

A second national historic site in Contra Costa County is currently proposed under a bill before the U. S. Senate. The Tao House of playwright Eugene O'Neill near Danville is proposed as a historic site. The bill includes national park tying in with the Las Trampas Park of the East Bay Regional Park District.

Local Parks





LEGEND

- NON-URBAN AREA
- URBAN AREA
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- ◆ EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK
- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- ◆ PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK
- S PROPOSED JOINT PARK AND SCHOOL

- MAP SYMBOLS**
- ANTIOCH INCORPORATED AREAS
 - Alamo UNINCORPORATED AREAS
 - FREEWAYS AND MAJOR ROADS
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 - RAILROADS AND BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT

PLANNING COMMISSION CERTIFICATE
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN MAP, ENTITLED
 "MAJOR PARKS PLAN", IS PART OF THE RECREATION
 ELEMENT AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN ADOPTED
 BY THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
 ON THE 15th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1970

Andrew H. Young
 ANDREW H. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

Anthony A. Dehaesus
 ANTHONY A. DEHAESUS, SECRETARY

CLERK OF THE BOARD CERTIFICATE
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN MAP, ENTITLED
 "MAJOR PARKS PLAN", IS PART OF THE RECREATION
 ELEMENT AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN ADOPTED
 BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CONTRA COSTA
 COUNTY ON THE 8th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1970

W. T. Beach
 W. T. BEACH, COUNTY CLERK

Ray Allen
 RAY ALLEN, CLERK

BASE MAP PREPARED BY THE CONTRA
 COSTA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - MARTINEZ
 CALIFORNIA 94553 - JULY, 1970

LOCAL PARKS PLAN, 1970 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

LOCAL PARKS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Local parks are enclosed areas of open space set aside for recreation within easy distance of the people they serve. They include neighborhood parks, community parks and various types of play areas. They are focal points for neighborhoods and communities where people can meet and enjoy their leisure time together. Local parks give a visual counterpoint to the often intense urban development in which they are located.

The purpose of this plan is to spell out present and future park needs and provide for them. The several cities in Contra Costa County, through their parks departments, are constantly analyzing their recreation programs and planning for the future park needs of their residents. This plan, therefore, will concern itself only with the present and projected park needs of the unincorporated portions of the County.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There are at the present time ninety-eight local parks in Contra Costa County totaling 768 acres including playgrounds, neighborhood parks and community parks. In addition, there are four public and twelve private golf courses with a total of 2,066 acres. The present and proposed service areas of neighborhood parks and locations of community parks are shown on Map 3.

These facilities are not evenly distributed to serve all of the County's residents. Most of the parks are concentrated in the incorporated cities; very few are located in the unincorporated areas. The unincorporated suburban area, with the highest growth potential in the County, had an approximate population of 170,000 in January 1970. The need is here now to provide parks for these people and to prepare for future population growth.

Design of local parks must be tailored to fit the needs of the neighborhood or community. Thus, if an area has a high proportion of the elderly, park facilities specifically designed to fit their needs should be provided.

In order to give guidance and direction to the Local Parks Plan, the following goals have been formulated:

1. To obtain a well-balanced distribution of local parks which is related to the character and intensity of present and planned residential development.
2. To obtain a quality of park design that is appropriate to the recreational needs and access capabilities of all people in the locality.

SURVEY OF EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

A survey was conducted during the summer of 1969 to determine all existing park facilities within the County. The results of this survey indicated the number, distribution, size, and facilities available of all parks in the County. A listing of all local parks is given in the appendix. Major parks and other recreational facilities will be discussed elsewhere.

At the present time, the majority of all existing local parks fall within the incorporated cities. The size and distribution of the parks varies from community to community. Each city has tailored its park program to the needs of its citizens and to the availability of land for park development. For the most part, the park acreages and facilities provided, as well as the location of the parks, adequately serve the cities' populations. Most of the cities have park and/or recreation departments or, as in the case of Pleasant Hill and Brentwood, recreation and park districts.

Some park services are provided in the unincorporated areas of the County either by recreation and park districts or by local citizens groups. The Ambrose Recreation and Park District in the Shore Acres-West Pittsburg Area has developed a fifteen acre community park with playfields, a swimming pool, and areas for picnicking. The Valley Community Services District in South San Ramon is tasked as one of its functions to provide park services. The District has developed parks in the Alameda County portion of the district and is presently engaged in a program to acquire park sites in Contra Costa County to serve the residents of San Ramon Village. Private civic groups have also provided parks in the County. The Crockett Recreation Association has developed a small park with swimming pool and tennis courts in Crockett, while the Lion's Club on Bethel Island has developed a six acre park on the island.

There are also a number of private parks and golf courses in the County as well as neighborhood swim and tennis clubs. However, because these parks are open only to their members, they are not included in this plan.

CRITERIA FOR LOCAL PARKS

Local park facilities can be broken down into three basic types: play areas which include play lots, playgrounds and play fields; neighborhood parks with service areas generally equivalent to those of elementary schools; and community parks with service areas equivalent to those of high schools. Play areas can be equated with active recreation, parks with passive recreation. Normally, a local park will be a combination of the three types. Thus, a community park will have play areas and also serve as a neighborhood park. Also, local parks are found in conjunction with other community facilities such as schools where the park and school share a common play area and community centers.

The size and location of local parks will vary depending on the population density of the area to be served. Whenever possible, the service radius criteria listed under each type below should be adhered to as closely as possible to permit ease of access. However, in areas of very

low density, service radius criteria may not be realistic for the population served and parks may be spaced at greater distances. The size of the park will vary directly with the population. The greater the population, the greater the size of the park necessary to serve a given area.

Play Areas

Play area refers to an active recreation area designed for sports or games. The three general kinds of play areas customarily identified are:

1. Playlots (tot lots) for pre-school children.
2. Playgrounds for elementary school children.
3. Playfields for youths and adults.

Playlots

Playlots are sub-neighborhood facilities for pre-school children. Public playlots on individual sites are subject to high maintenance and supervisory costs; however, independent playlots are desirable "backyard substitutes" in areas of high population density. They should be privately provided in apartment projects and planned unit developments. In areas of high density single family dwellings they should be provided as sub-areas of neighborhood playgrounds.

Standards for this type of facility are:

Site Area: 2,000 - 5,000 square feet is adequate for either an independent site or that portion of a playground developed as a playlot.

Location: Independent sites are best located in the centers of apartment projects or planned unit developments which they are intended to serve.

Facilities: Basic facilities include scaled down playground equipment (swings, slides, climbing apparatus) and shaded bench area for parents. Additional facilities include sandboxes, spray pools, and both grassed and hard surfaced play areas.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds are the most basic and most common form of recreational facility. They are considered neighborhood facilities in terms of service area, and primarily serve elementary school children. One-half mile is the normal service radius, but this must be extended in areas where topography or prevailing low population densities make wider spacing necessary. In any event they should coincide with elementary school service areas.

The standards for playgrounds are:

Site Area: Independent site - 3-7 acres.
In conjunction with park or school - 3-5 acres.

Location: Should be central to neighborhood served, preferably accessible without having to cross traffic arteries or railroads.

Facilities: Basic facilities include playground equipment plus both hard surfaced and grassed play areas. Additional facilities include shelter, sports and game areas (baseball diamonds, tennis courts, and wading and swimming pools). Playlots should be provided.

Association: Playgrounds should be developed in conjunction with elementary schools and parks for maximum effectiveness. Location within independently-situated play fields and parks is also desirable.

Playfields

Playfields are active recreation areas for youth and adults. They are characterized by fields and courts for such activities as hardball, football, archery, soccer, tennis, and lawn games. Playfields are designed to serve a variety of activities and age groups. The service area of a playfield is equivalent to that of high schools.

Standards for playfields are:

Site Area: 10 acres minimum, 15 acres desirable; 12 acres minimum, 17 acres desirable for sites with playground facilities.

Location: Should be central to four or five neighborhoods (roughly four or five elementary school service areas).

Facilities: Primary facilities - game courts, men's sports field, women's and girls' sports field, lawn games area. Secondary facilities - swimming pool, shelter house or recreation building, parking lot.

Association: Playfields adjoining high school sites or community parks are particularly appropriate. Playlots and playgrounds should also be included.

Park Areas

Park areas for the purposes of this component plan will cover neighborhood and community parks. Other minor "vest pocket" parks which include squares, monuments, greenways (drainage strips) and landscaped intersection triangles are useful in helping provide some open space but are generally too small for any form of active recreation and, therefore, not included.

Neighborhood parks

Neighborhood parks are small areas of landscaped open space and have a service radius of one-half mile. Their service areas are generally equivalent to that of elementary schools. Neighborhood parks should be developed in combination with playgrounds and some playfield activity. Joint development with the local elementary school would allow for joint use of playground facilities.

Care must also be taken to insure that facilities are provided for the elderly. Separate areas of benches and tables should be provided as places where the elderly can relax and meet with each other.

Standards for neighborhood parks are:

Acreage/Population: 2.50 acres per 1000 population.

Site Area: Without playground - 3-7 acres.
With playground - 6-8 acres.
With playfield - 12-17 acres.

Location: Identical to playgrounds - center of neighborhood.

Facilities: (Park area only) Landscaped open space (trees, grass, shrubbery), benches and tables, and walks.

Service Radius: One-half mile.

Association: Neighborhood parks are best located adjacent to playgrounds, playfields and elementary schools. They may also contain a neighborhood recreation center.

Community Parks

Community parks are local parks which serve groups of four to five neighborhoods. They provide greater recreational opportunities than neighborhood parks and customarily utilize sites of natural advantage. Community parks should contain substantial playfield development and a community center.

Standards for community parks are:

Acreage/Population: 1.50 acres per 1000 population.

Site Area: Independent sites - 15-20 acres.
With playgrounds and playfield - minimum 25 acres, recommended 40-50 acres.

Location: In the center of a group of neighborhoods. The site should have some natural features of interest such as water frontage or rough topography if possible.

Service Radius: Two miles.

Facilities: Both landscaped and natural open space, playgrounds and playfields, parking, special facilities such as golf, boating and swimming, and a community center.

Association: Community parks should be located in combination with high schools and have approximately the same service area.

EXISTING AND FUTURE PARK NEEDS

The County has been divided into a number of planning areas, each of which will be discussed separately in regard to its park needs. For those sections of the County not covered in this plan, no residential development is currently anticipated. If, at a later time, an area is proposed for residential development, its local park needs will have to be analyzed and

this plan amended accordingly.

Proposed locations of neighborhood and community parks are shown on the maps following each section.

Rodeo-Crockett

The Rodeo-Crockett Planning Area, comprising Census Tracts 3570 and 3580, is in the northwestern part of the County, lying along San Pablo Bay and the Carquinez Straits. The study area includes three small unincorporated communities: Rodeo, population 6,700; Crockett, population 4,000; and Port Costa, population 150. The present estimated population of the planning area is 11,000. These communities are among the oldest of the County and have shown very little growth over the past decade. Land use as proposed in the 1963 Land Use and Circulation Plan, likewise, will not change appreciably. The area around Crockett and Port Costa is not expected to change, and the saturation population is estimated at 6,200. The area around Rodeo has a present population of approximately 7,000. The majority of land in the planning area is to be utilized for heavy industry or is in steep, undeveloped hill land.

There is presently one neighborhood park in both the Crockett and Rodeo areas. A second park may be needed in Rodeo as the area develops. In addition, a community park serving the entire study area will be needed. The Rodeo-Crockett Planning Area does have available areas of open hill country off the Cummings Skyway which offer potential sites for such a community park.

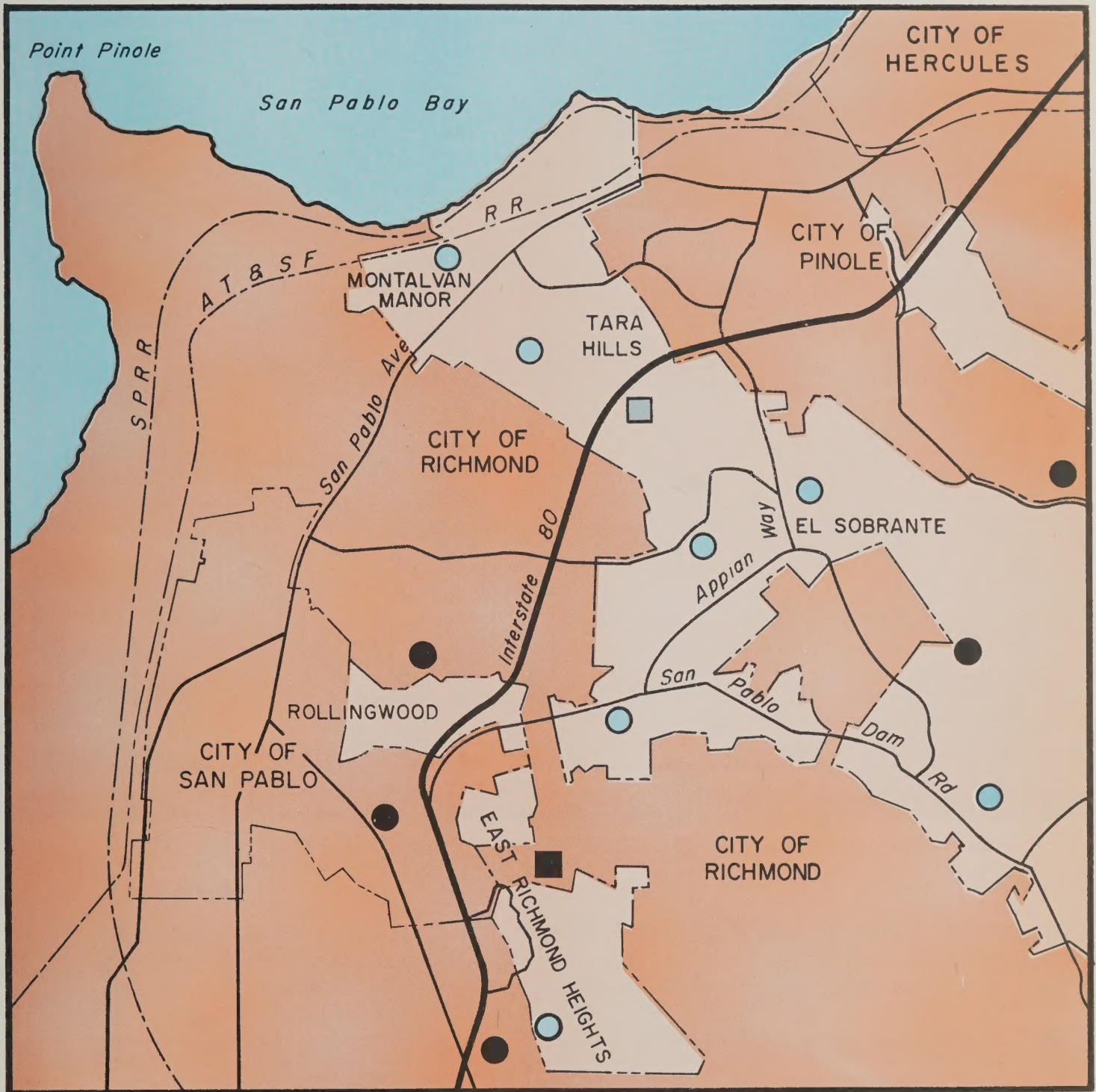
El Sobrante

The El Sobrante Planning Area is that part of the County along San Pablo Bay between the Cities of Pinole to the north and Richmond and San Pablo to the south. This area has been fragmented by annexations to the City of Richmond and does not form a contiguous whole. It has been divided into four areas: Tara Hills-Montalvin Manor to the west and north of Interstate 80 Freeway with a population of 9,000; El Sobrante with a population of 18,000; Rollingwood, lying between the Cities of San Pablo and Richmond with a population of 3,000; and East Richmond Heights, surrounded on three sides by the City of Richmond and one side by the City of El Cerrito with a population of 4,400. Because of the fragmentation of the El Sobrante area, each of the sub-areas will have to be treated separately in any discussion of park needs.

The Tara Hills-Montalvin Manor subdivisions do not have any park facilities at the present time. Both communities should have at least one neighborhood park. However, because these communities have already reached almost full development, the acquisition of park sites in locations that will readily serve the population will be difficult. If sites cannot be acquired in these areas, then a joint-use arrangement with the Richmond Unified School District for the use of school playgrounds would be an alternative.

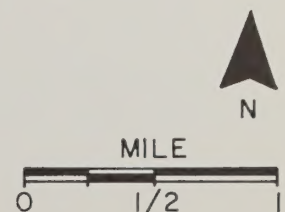
LOCAL PARKS

EL SOBRANTE



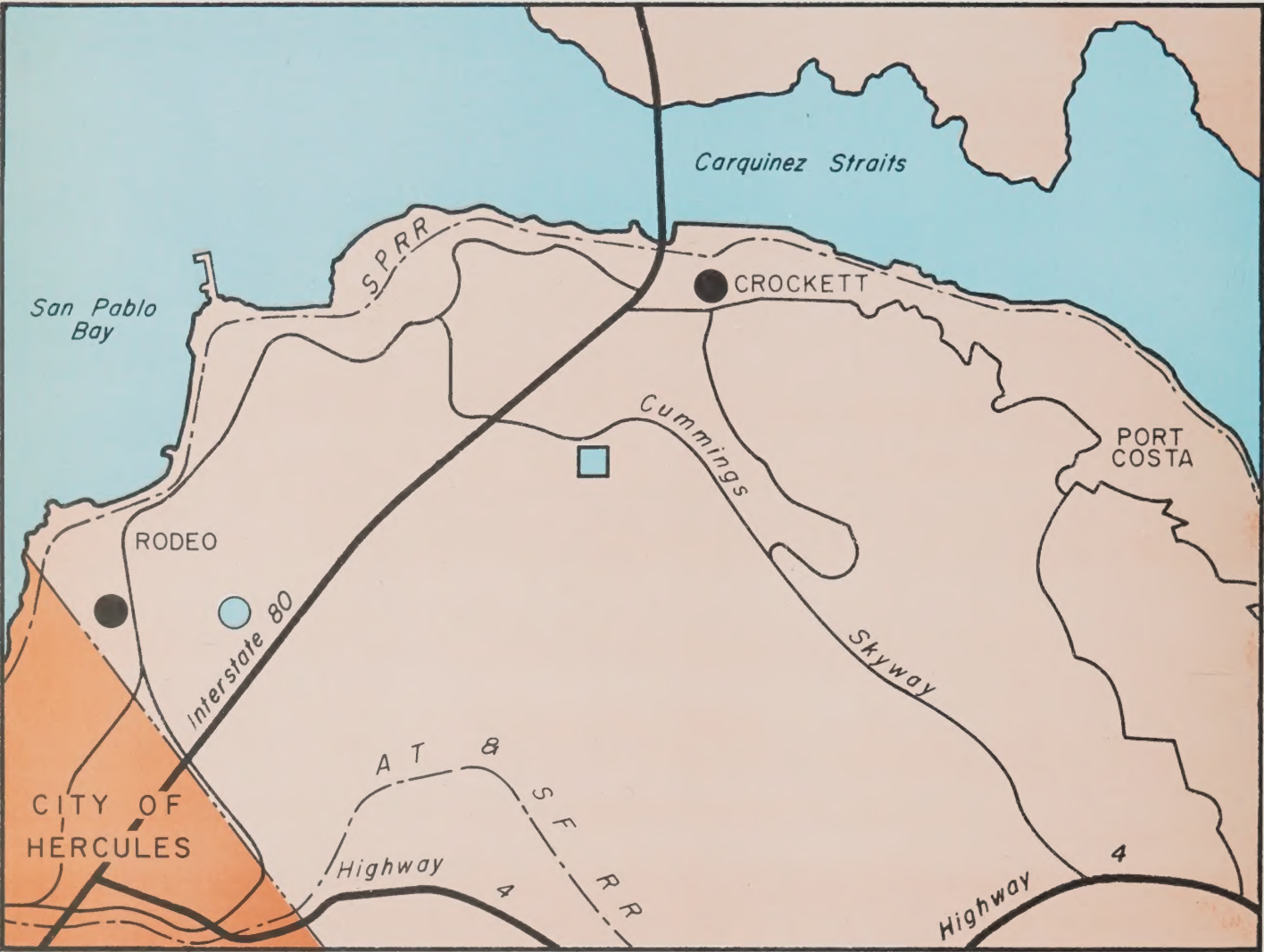
LEGEND

- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK



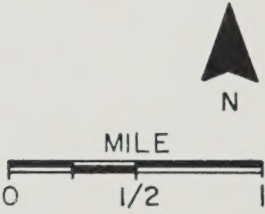
LOCAL PARKS

RODEO - CROCKETT



LEGEND

- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



The El Sobrante area is that portion of the planning area that lies to the east of Interstate 80 and north of the San Pablo Dam Road. The El Sobrante Area Plan adopted in November 1966 shows the center of the area proposed for high density single family residential and multiple family development. The area is projected to have a population holding capacity of 55,000. Parts of this area fall within the service radii of parks proposed by the City of Richmond. These proposed parks, however, are intended to serve the needs of Richmond's residents and, in any event, would not be adequate to serve the needs of the entire area. At least four additional parks will be needed to serve the ultimate population of El Sobrante and one community park which will serve as a fifth neighborhood park.

Rollingwood and East Richmond Heights are similar to Tara Hills-Montalvin Manor in that each area has been almost fully developed. Neither area has any existing local parks but both fall into park service areas of San Pablo and Richmond. A neighborhood park is recommended for the East Richmond Heights area to serve the existing population. Because both areas are presently fully developed, no further local park development will be necessary.

North Richmond

North Richmond is located in the western part of the County on San Pablo Bay. It encompasses approximately 1,690 acres, one-third of which are in the City of Richmond. The present population of the area is 5,000.

Development within the area is characterized by high density residential development on the eastern side and undeveloped vacant land on the western side bordering the Bay. The area is presently under a Model Cities Program which is developing plans for the redevelopment of the entire area. Park proposals for the area will be those put forward by the Model Cities Program.

An application for funds under Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954 for planning of recreation and park facilities has been approved. This program, the North Richmond-San Pablo Bay Study, will include provisions for local parks and playgrounds as well as a regional park and development of recreational facilities on San Pablo Bay itself.

Kensington

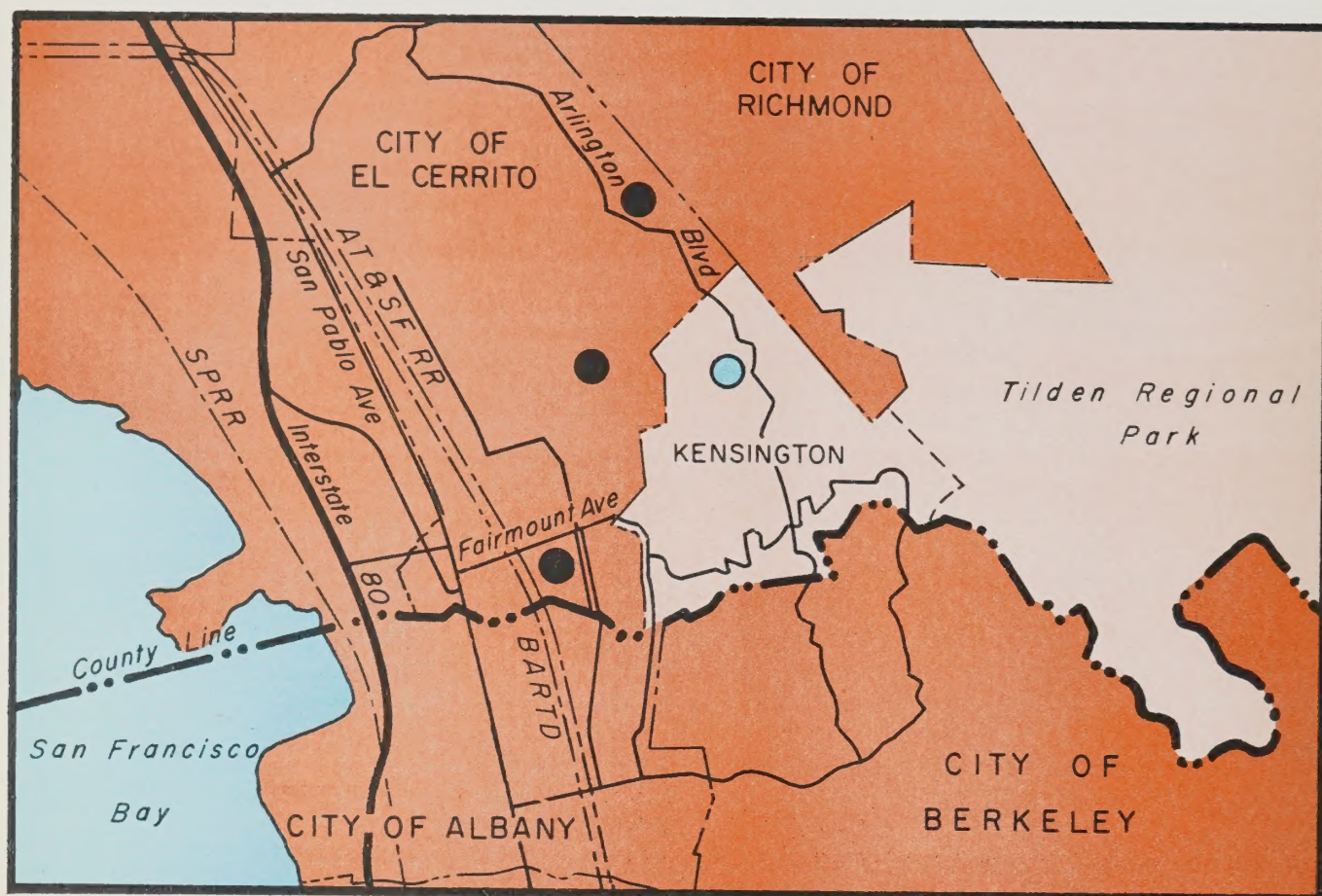
The community of Kensington, comprising Census Tracts 3910 and 3920, is located in the Berkeley Hills. It is bounded by the City of El Cerrito on the west and north, by Berkeley on the south, and by the City of Richmond and Tilden Regional Park on the east. The area has a present population of 6,500 and is fully developed. The community has no local parks, though it does have fairly easy access to the recreational facilities at Tilden Regional Park. In keeping with the criteria set forth in this Local Parks Plan, one neighborhood park is recommended for Kensington. This park could be provided by the Kensington Community Services District.

Vine Hill-Pacheco

The Vine Hill-Pacheco area is located between the Cities of Martinez and Pleasant Hill. It is composed of Census Tracts 3200, 3211, and 3212 with

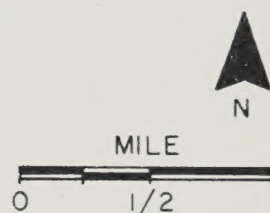
LOCAL PARKS

KENSINGTON



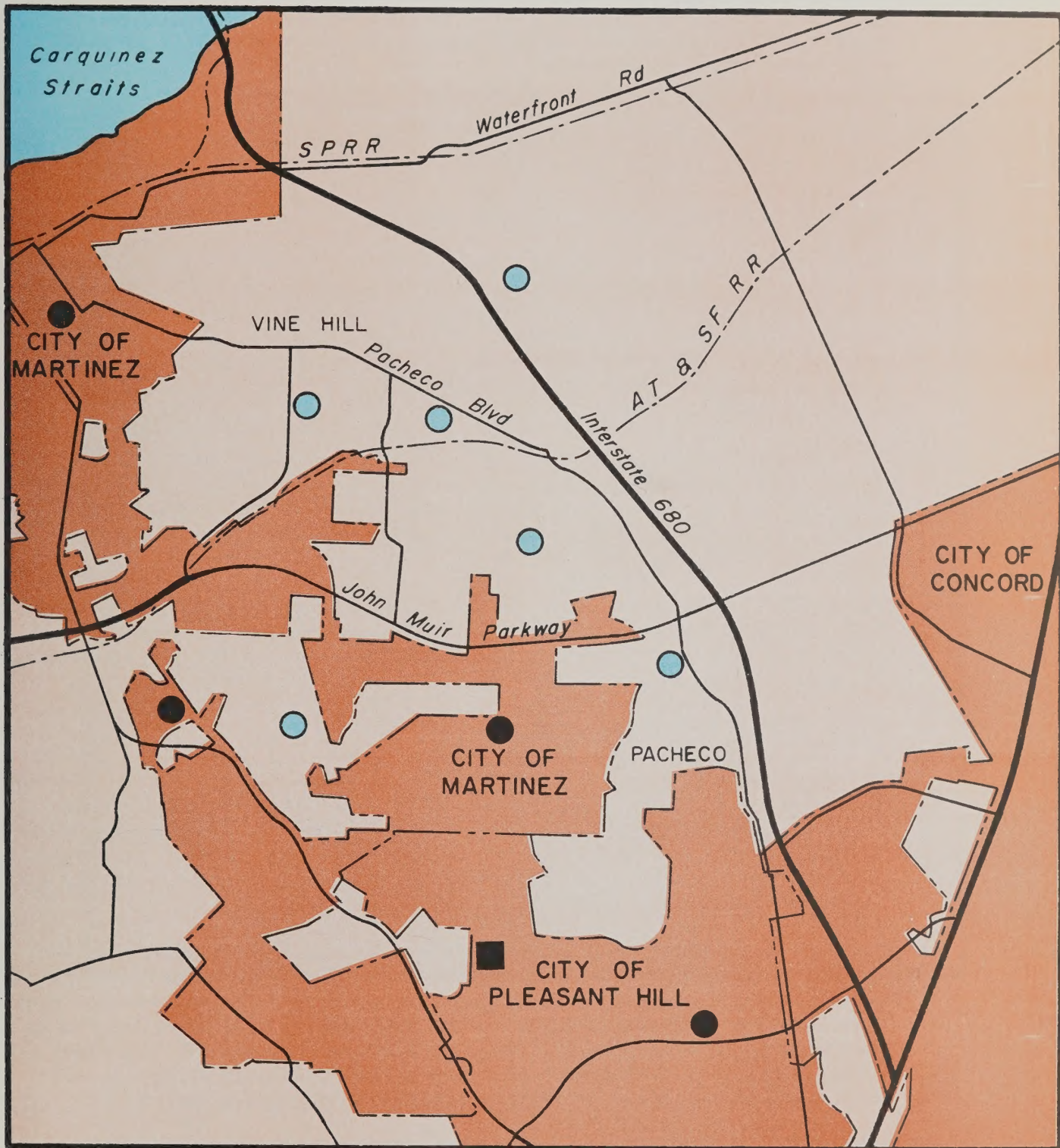
LEGEND

- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



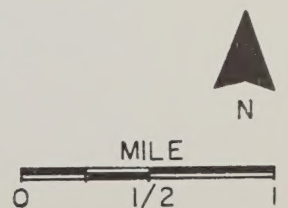
LOCAL PARKS

VINE HILL - PACHECO



LEGEND

-  PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
-  EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
-  EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK



a combined population of 11,500. The estimated saturation population¹ of the area is 55,800.

The area is characterized by small lot, single family residences in close proximity to heavy industry to the north. The area presently falls partly within the city limits of Martinez and Pleasant Hill. These two cities are already providing park services to the areas under their jurisdiction. Future population needs will call for six additional neighborhood parks in the area. Careful site selection will have to be made because of the heavy traffic arteries and railroads crossing the area. That part of Vine Hill lying to the east of Interstate 680 will need its own small park and play area because it is effectively isolated from the rest of the area by the freeway.

Pleasant Hill BART Station Planning Area

The Pleasant Hill BART Station Planning Area, sometimes known as Walden, is a pocket of unincorporated territory bounded on the north by Concord, on the west by Pleasant Hill, on the south by Walnut Creek, and on the east by Walnut Creek and Concord. The area is presently partially developed with a variety of land uses - residential, commercial, and industrial. However, there is no real focal point within the area or sense of community identity.

The Pleasant Hill BART Station, located roughly in the center of the area, will create a transportation focal point with the attendant high intensity uses in the vicinity of the station. A saturation population of 25,000 is projected for the area with a concentration of multiple family units around the station.

Though much of the area falls within the park service radii of Pleasant Hill, Concord, and Walnut Creek, an additional neighborhood park in the vicinity of the BART Station will be necessary to provide for the expected increases in population in that area.

Reliez Valley-Western Walnut Creek

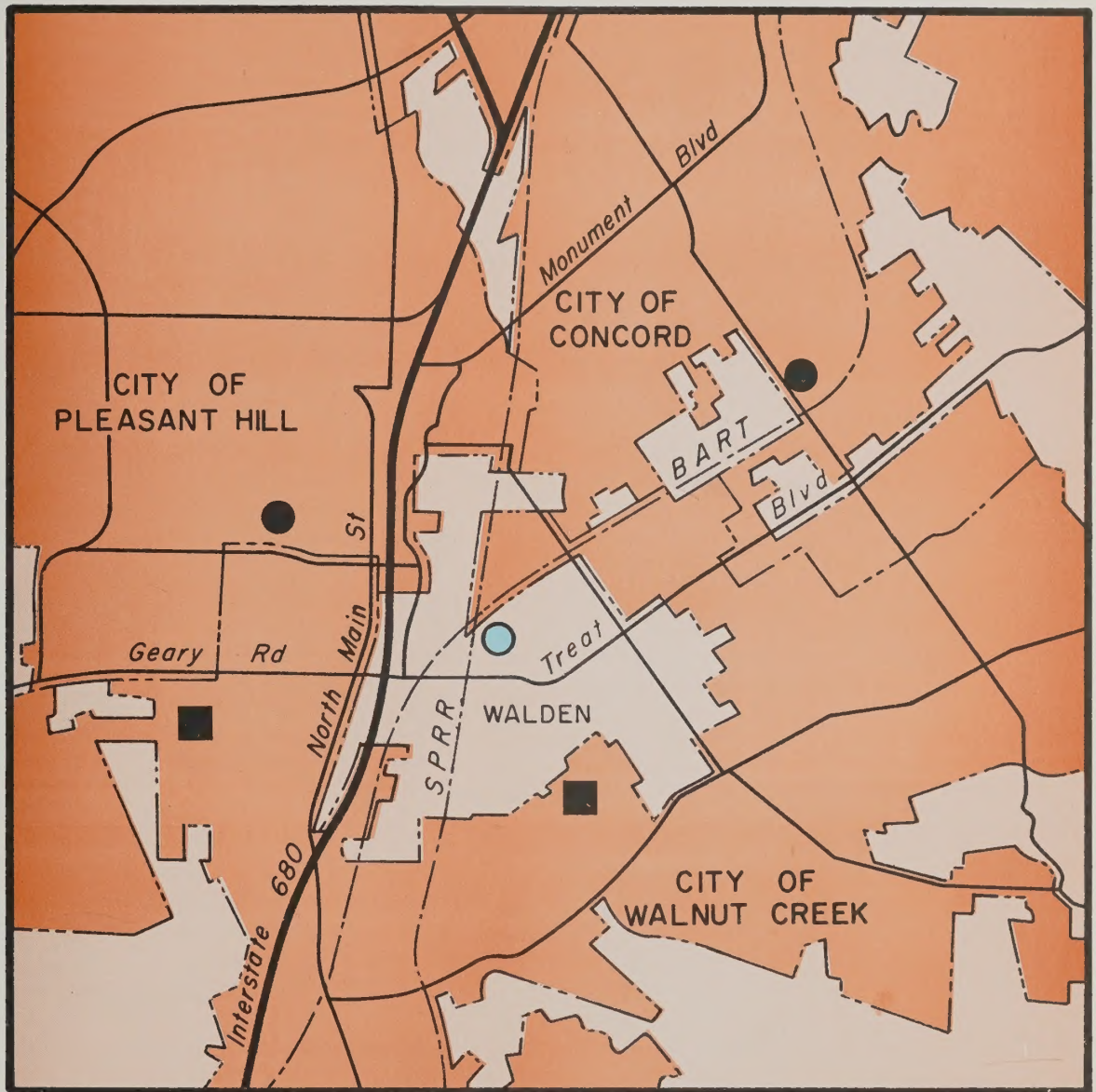
The Reliez Valley-Western Walnut Creek area encompasses the area between the Cities of Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, and Lafayette and includes Census Tracts 3400, 3410, and 3470. The area extends from Briones Valley Road on the west to Interstate 680 on the east. Its present population is 17,800, concentrated on the eastern side of the planning area and its saturation population is estimated at 31,500.

The area is characterized by medium and low density development on the eastern side and low density development and open hill country on the western side. All future development is projected for the eastern side. The elevations increase sharply to the west making this land unsuitable for residential development. Saranap, south of Highway 24, has been almost completely developed. The area is not presently served by any local park facilities. It should have one neighborhood park.

¹According to the Land Use and Circulation Plan of Contra Costa County, 1963-1985.

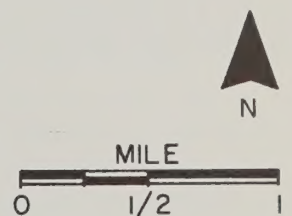
LOCAL PARKS

PLEASANT HILL BART STATION



LEGEND

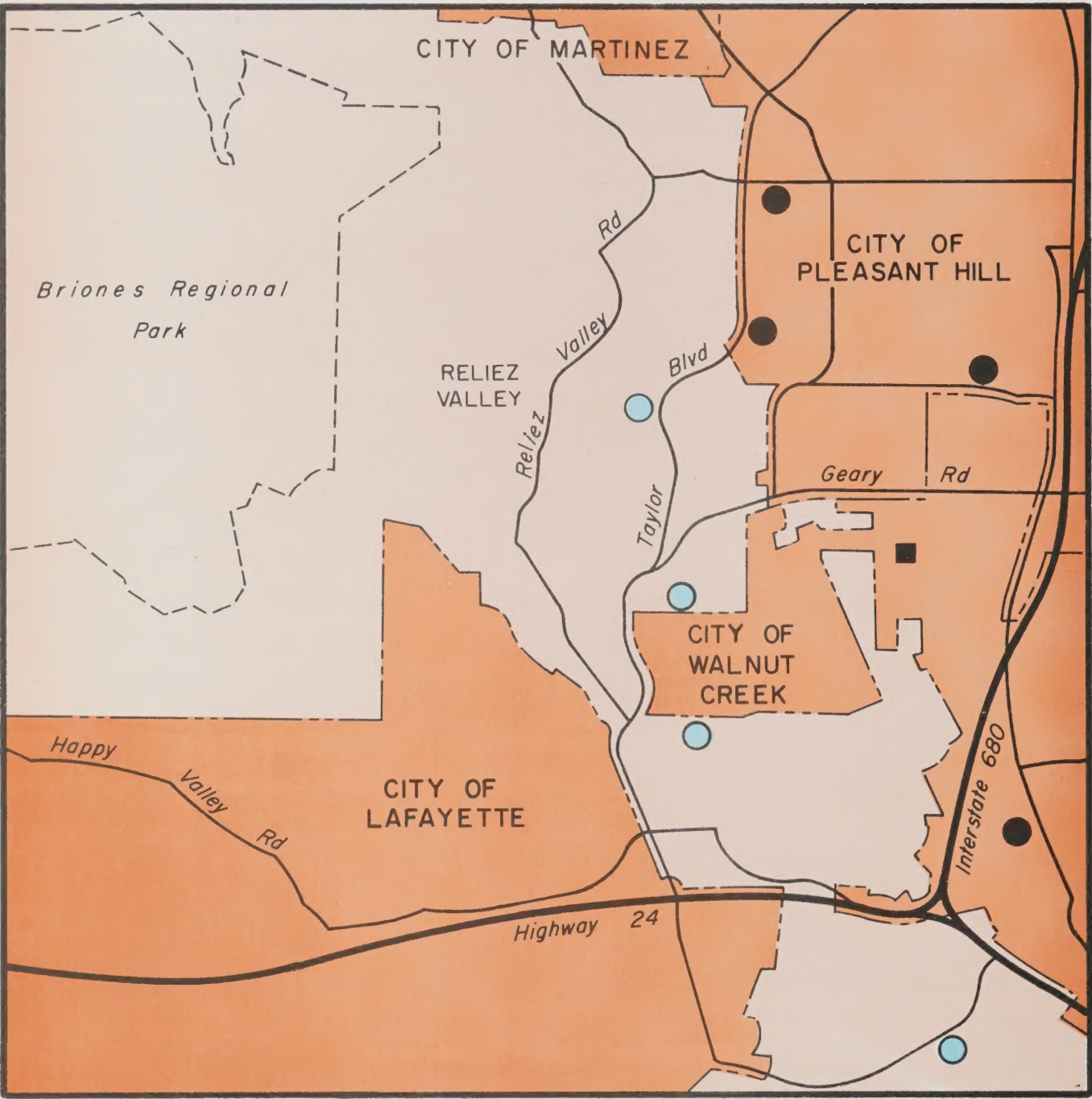
-  PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
-  EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
-  EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK



LOCAL PARKS

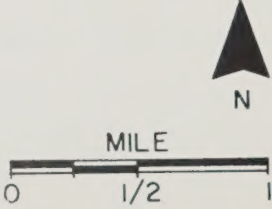
RELIEZ VALLEY

WESTERN WALNUT CREEK



LEGEND

- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK



The eastern part of the study area north of Highway 24 has also seen considerable development. However, most of this development has occurred in areas within the City of Walnut Creek. This section has a present population of 10,000 and an ultimate saturation population of 17,500. The City of Walnut Creek has one park developed (Larkey Park) and two parks proposed for the area. However, as the area grows, at least two additional neighborhood parks will be needed.

The Reliez Valley area to the west of Pleasant Hill Road and north of the City of Lafayette is the least developed part of the planning area. It is characterized by large lot development giving it a semi-rural atmosphere and precluding the necessity of local neighborhood parks.

Orinda

The Orinda Planning Area is located in the west central part of the County and encompasses Census Tracts 3530 and 3540. The planning area is bounded on the west by the City of Oakland, on the south by Moraga, on the east by Lafayette, and on the north by undeveloped hill country.

The topography of the area is that of steep ridges crossing the area from northwest to southeast with very little level land. As a result, development has been restricted to low density residential with some medium density residential and commercial development on the relatively flat valley floor at the intersection of Camino Pablo-Moraga Way with State Highway 24.

The Orinda General Plan is presently under review by the County Planning Department. This review will result in a revision of the existing general plan and will include a recreation element. The park site recommendations to be made in the Orinda General Plan revision will become part of this Local Parks Plan.

Moraga

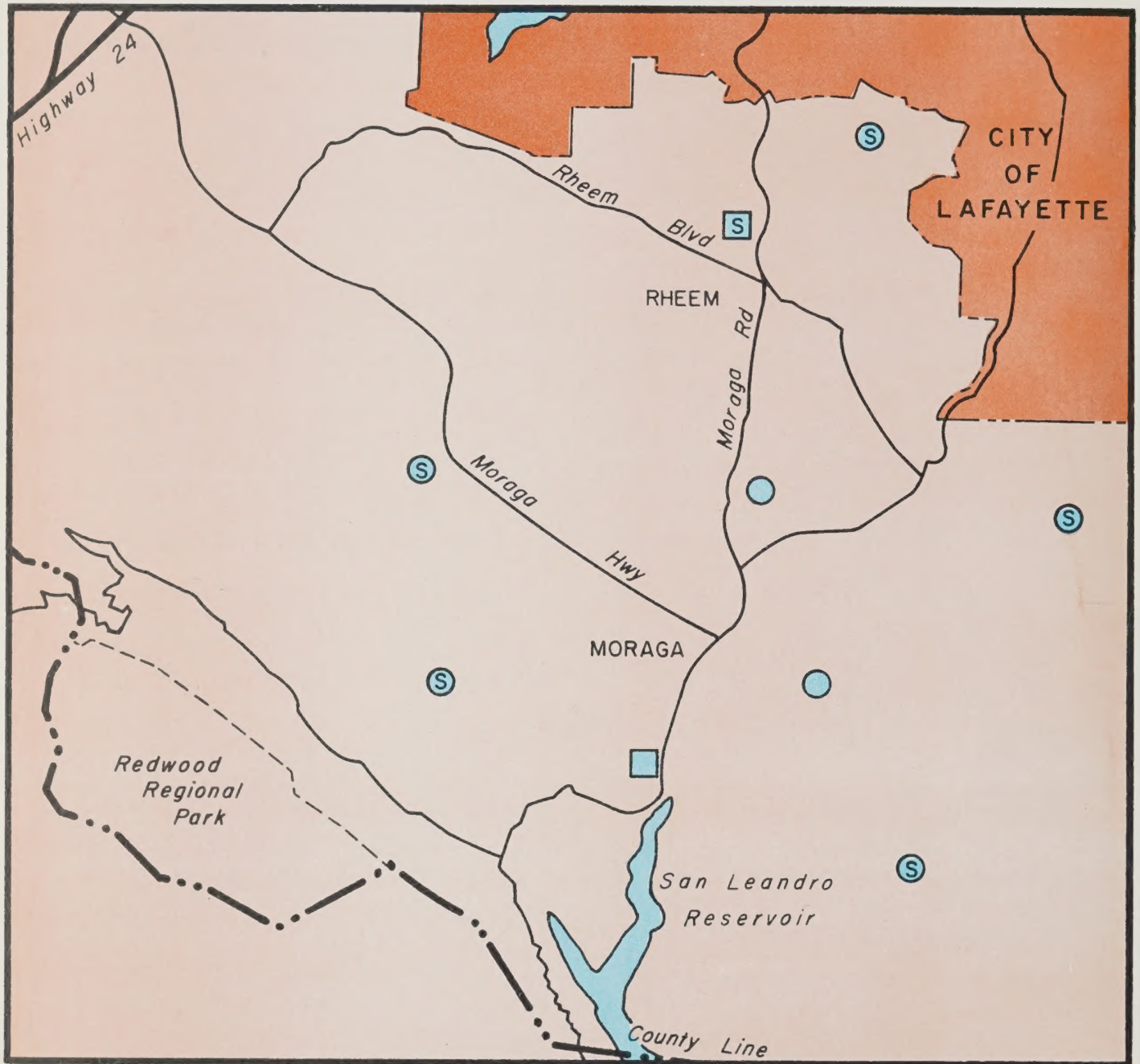
The Moraga Planning Area is located in the west central section of the County, bounded on the north by Orinda and Lafayette, on the west and south by Alameda County, and on the east by Las Trampas Ridge. The area includes Census Tracts 3521 and 3522 and has an estimated population of 16,000 with a saturation population of 42,000. The northeastern corner of the planning area falls within the City of Lafayette.

Present and future development is characterized by low to medium suburban development. The area is crossed by a number of steep ridges which preclude any type of development other than residential except on the few relatively flat pieces of ground such as at Rheem Valley and Moraga Center, where shopping centers have been developed.

A new general plan was completed for Moraga and adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on December 2, 1969. It includes a recreation element which outlines the park needs for Moraga. The plan indicates that to serve existing and proposed population, at least nine parks will be needed. This includes seven neighborhood parks and two community parks which will also serve as two additional neighborhood parks. Because of the terrain and circulation pattern of Moraga, the two community parks

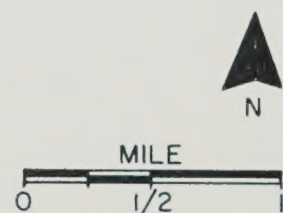
LOCAL PARKS

MORAGA



LEGEND

-  PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
-  PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK
-  PROPOSED JOINT PARK AND SCHOOL



should be so located as to serve the Moraga Center and Rheem Valley areas respectively.

Alamo-Danville

The Alamo-Danville Planning Area forms the northern part of the greater San Ramon Valley, encompassing 26,000 acres and including the communities of Alamo, Danville, Diablo, and the southern part of the City of Walnut Creek. The area is primarily characterized by low density residential development with some limited areas of medium to high density residential development centered around the two towns of Alamo and Danville. The present population for the area has been estimated at 27,000 for 1970 with a General Plan holding capacity of 50,000.

Because much of the area is low density residential, the need for parks is lessened somewhat. At least eight neighborhood parks will be needed centered in the areas of high density at Alamo and Danville and along the corridor formed by Interstate 680 connecting the two communities. One of these parks should be a community park, preferably in the Danville area, which will have the greatest concentration of population. Additional neighborhood and community parks will be needed in outlying areas as they develop.

New park development in this area should be closely coordinated with the San Ramon Unified School District as it selects new school sites to serve the area.

San Ramon

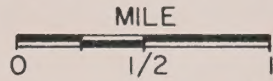
The San Ramon Planning Area encompasses the southernmost part of the urbanized north-south urban corridor through the Central County. A general plan was completed for the area and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in May 1965. This plan proposed a corridor along both sides of Interstate 680 of medium and high density residential development extending from the community of San Ramon in the north to South San Ramon in the south, flanked on both sides by low density residential development. Areas of light industry were proposed for San Ramon and the Camp Parks areas.

The San Ramon Planning Area presently has a population of 9,000, concentrated primarily in the South San Ramon area, and an estimated saturation population of 72,000. The entire planning area is served by the San Ramon Unified School District. South San Ramon is also served by the Valley Community Services District, one of whose functions is to provide local park services.

Valley Community Services District had a master plan for parks completed by Wilsey and Hamm, Planning Consultants, in 1968. However, the sites proposed in this plan were all developed for other uses before they could be acquired by the district for park purposes. As a result, the park needs of the area are still unfilled.

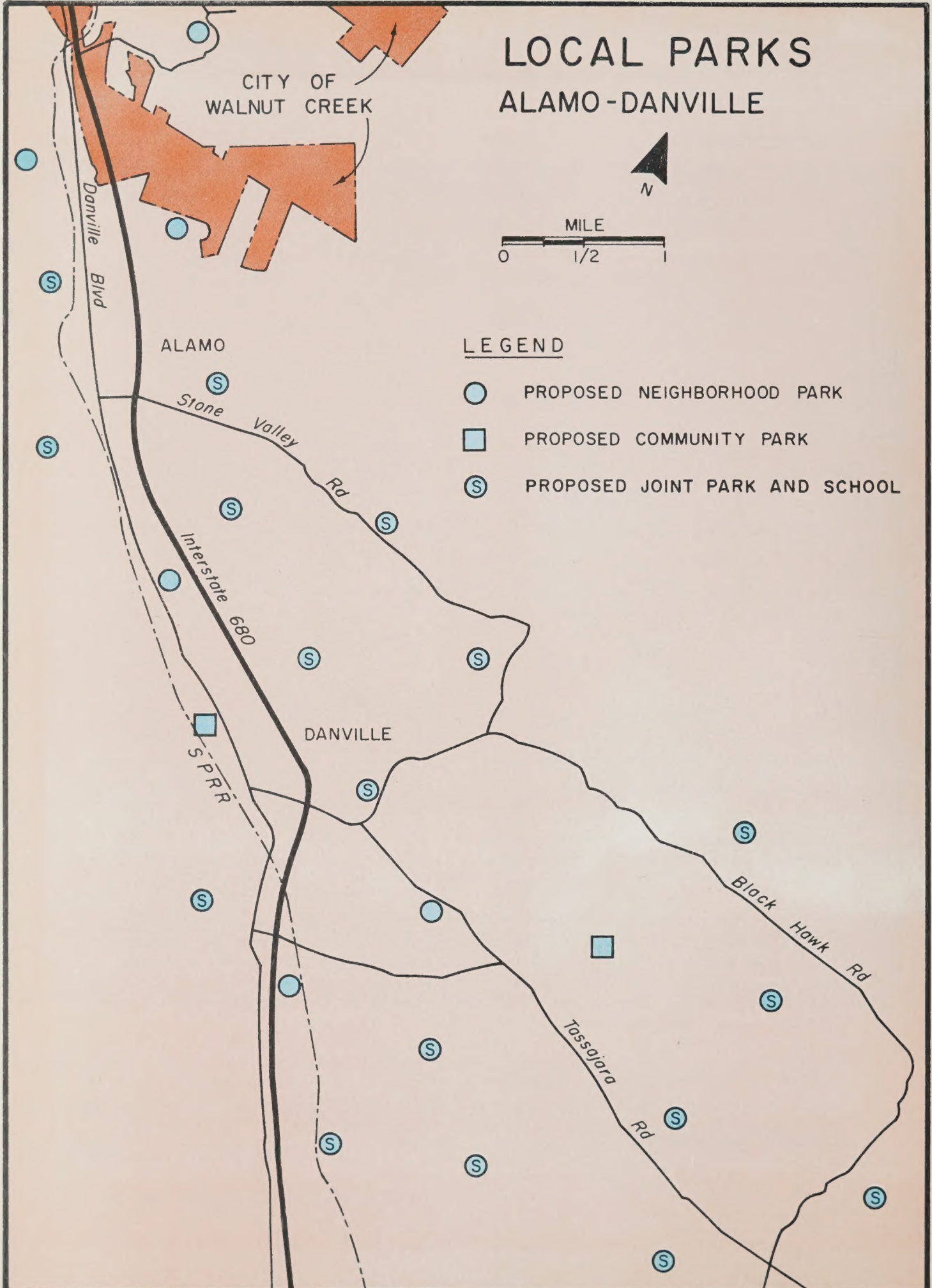
LOCAL PARKS ALAMO-DANVILLE

CITY OF
WALNUT CREEK



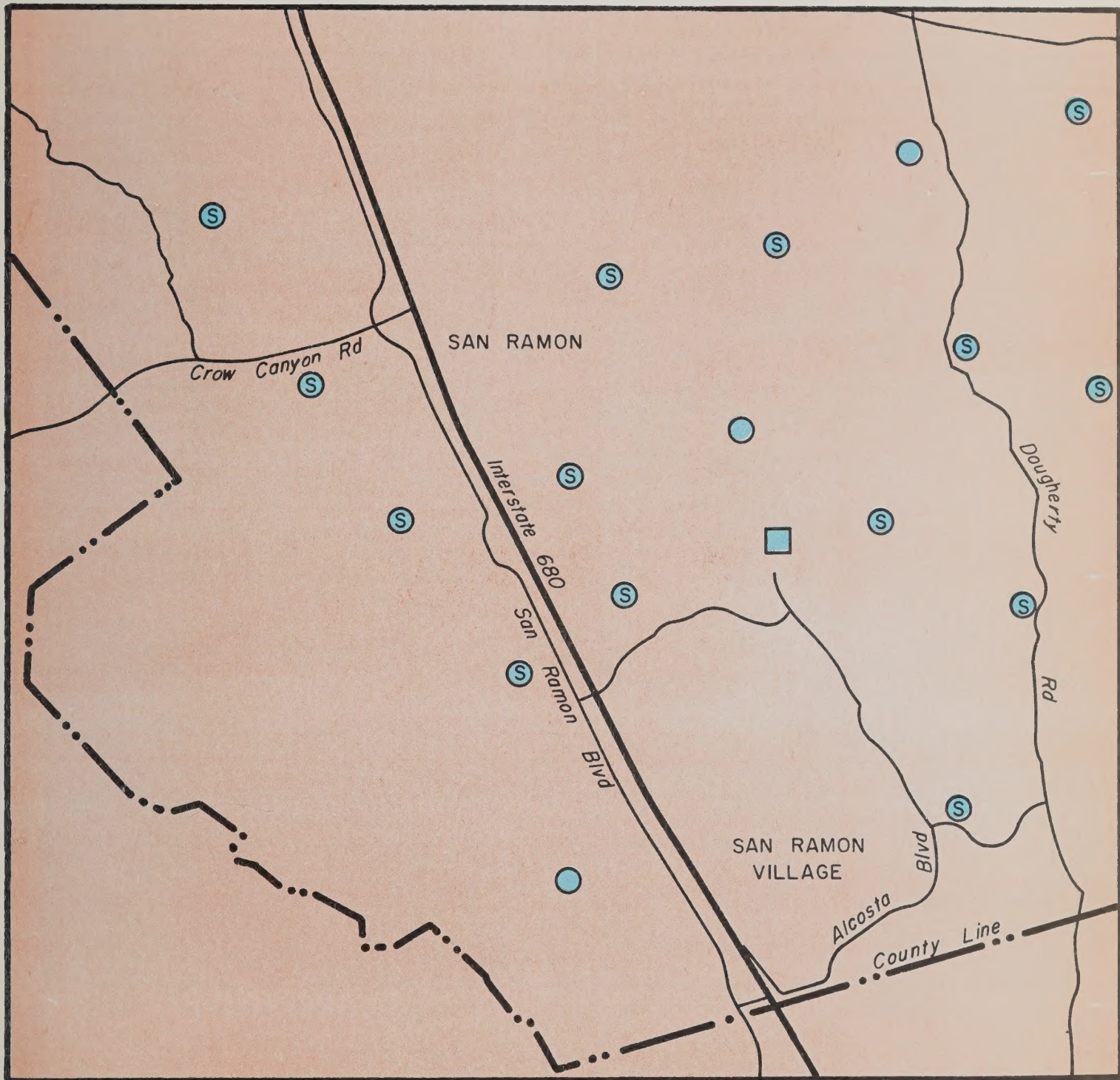
LEGEND

-  PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
-  PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK
-  PROPOSED JOINT PARK AND SCHOOL



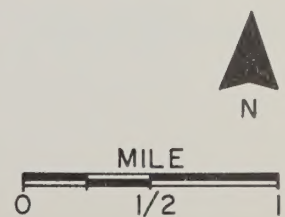
LOCAL PARKS

SAN RAMON



LEGEND

-  PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
-  PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK
-  PROPOSED JOINT PARK AND SCHOOL



The need for neighborhood and community parks is already being felt in the San Ramon Planning Area and will increase as the area develops. This is especially true in the corridor of high and medium residential development along Interstate 680. It is estimated that at least fifteen local parks will be needed to serve the future population in this corridor. At least one of these local parks should be a community park.¹ Again, as in the Alamo-Danville Planning Area, additional parks will be needed in the outlying lower density areas flanking both sides of the San Ramon Valley. The selection of park sites should be made in conjunction with the San Ramon Unified School District as the district acquires new school sites to serve the area.

Shore Acres-West Pittsburg

The Shore Acres-West Pittsburg Planning area lies along Suisun Bay, extending from the U. S. Naval Weapons Station at Port Chicago in the west to the City of Pittsburg in the east. The area is bounded on the south by the foothills of Mt. Diablo.

The physical topography is one of a low, flat coastal plain in the north, increasing in elevation in the south. The shore line along Suisun Bay is primarily tidal marsh with very little access across it to the Bay.

The planning area is characterized by a strip of heavy industry along Suisun Bay in the north, paralleled by high density residential development also north of State Highway 4. The 1963 Land Use and Circulation Plan proposes an expansion of the high density residential land use to the south of State Highway 4, flanked by proposed low density residential land use on the hill slopes in the southern part of the planning area.

The planning area has a present population of 10,600 with an anticipated saturation population of 27,000.

Park needs of the planning area are presently being met by the Ambrose Recreation and Park District which operates a neighborhood park on the south side of State Highway 4 at the intersection of Bailey Road. While Ambrose Park serves the needs of the existing population, additional parks will be needed as the area develops. It is anticipated that four additional local parks, one of which should be a community park, will be needed. Three of these parks should be located north of State Highway 4 which will experience most of the development.

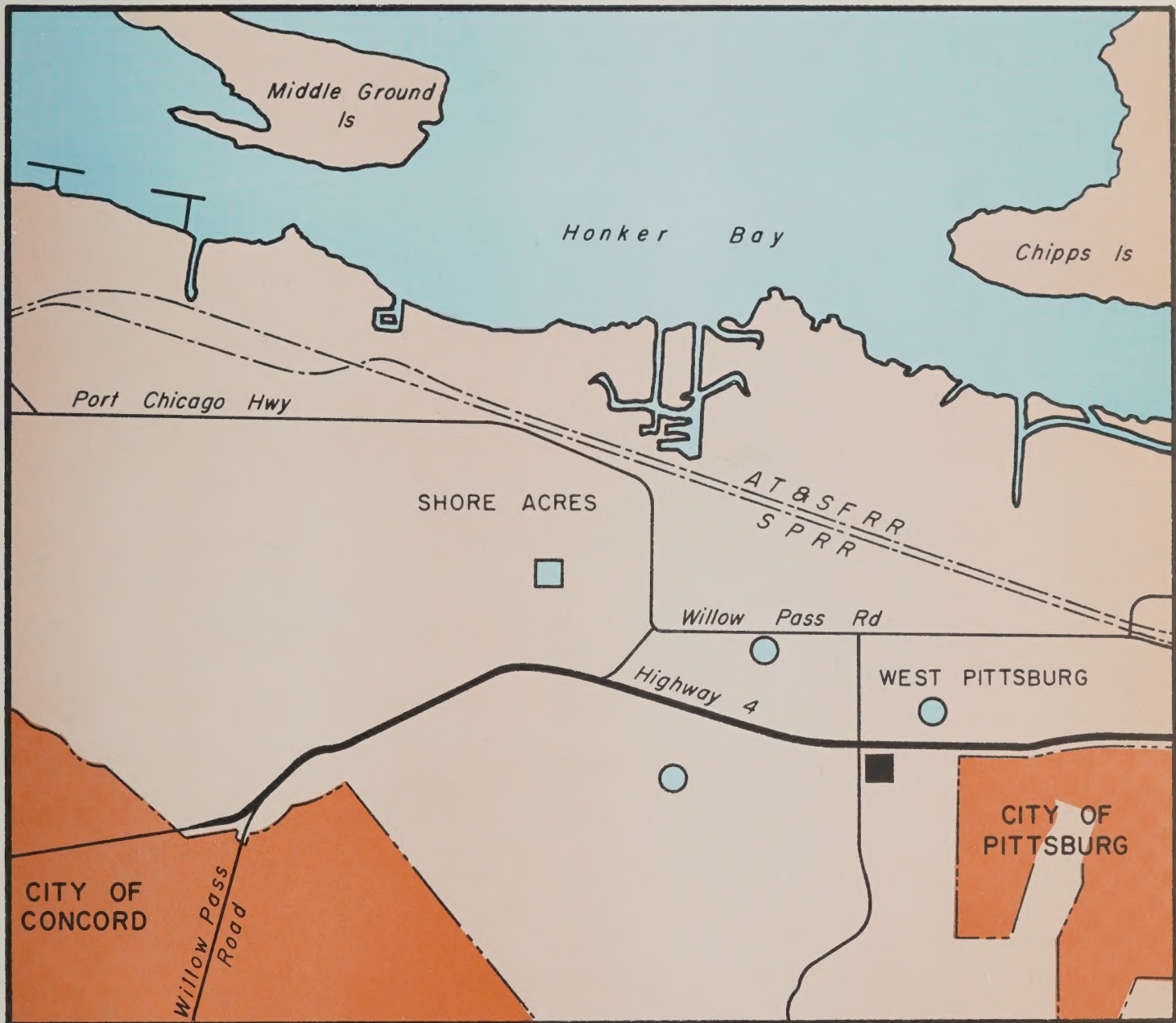
South Pittsburg-Antioch Area

South Pittsburg-Antioch area encompasses the area south of the Cities of Pittsburg and Antioch to the base of the foothills of Mt. Diablo. Much

¹ A second community park intended to serve South San Ramon is presently under development in Dublin, Alameda County, by the Valley Community Services District which serves areas in both Contra Costa County and Alameda County.

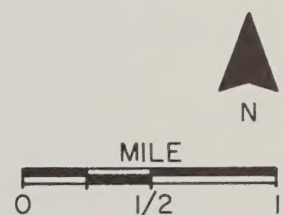
LOCAL PARKS

SHORE ACRES
WEST PITTSBURG



LEGEND

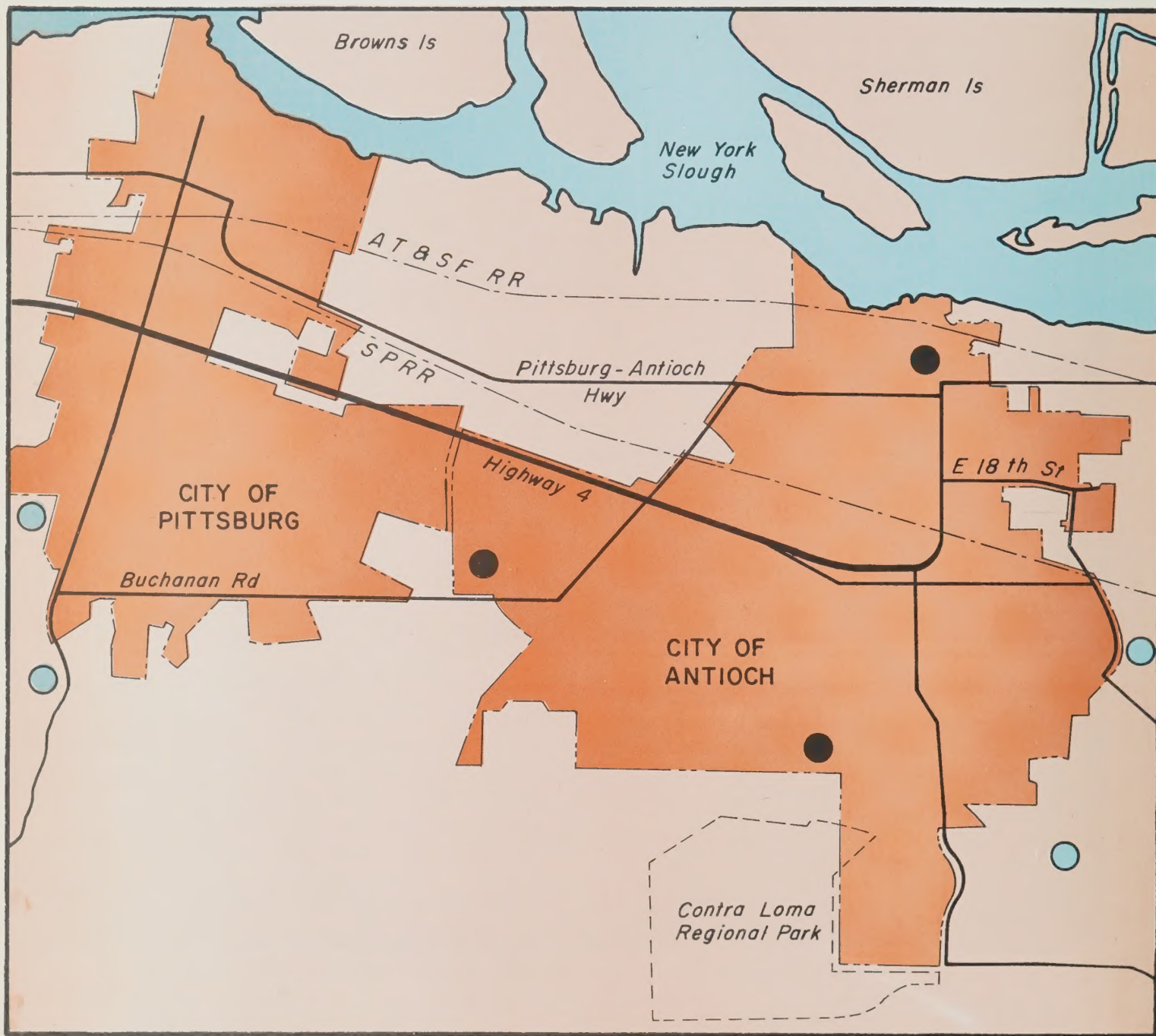
- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK
- EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK



LOCAL PARKS

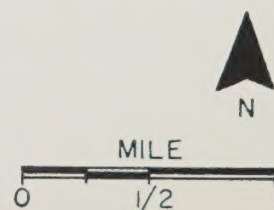
SOUTH PITTSBURG

ANTIOCH



LEGEND

- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



of this area is presently undeveloped, but it is anticipated that residential development will take place here as the Cities of Antioch and Pittsburg grow.

Areas of high density development have been proposed in the 1963 Land Use and Circulation Plan for the area south and southwest of Pittsburg. This high density residential development will generate a need for several neighborhood parks. The area to the south and southeast of Antioch has been proposed for medium density residential development with a small area of high density residential adjacent to the City of Antioch. It is anticipated that this southeast Antioch area will need three neighborhood parks when fully developed.

East County

Eastern Contra Costa County, the largest of all of the planning areas, covers almost half of the County. The area, however, is characterized primarily by farming and grazing and presently has a population of only 15,600. Residential development in the east county will be limited to areas around existing communities.

At present, the City of Brentwood has one neighborhood park and the residents of Bethel Island have constructed the Lion's Club Park on Bethel Island. These are the only existing parks in the planning area. Additional neighborhood parks are recommended for the Brentwood area, one being a community park, Oakley, Knightson and Byron.

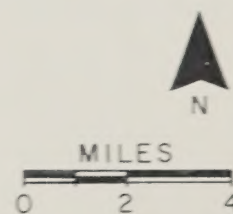
LOCAL PARKS

EAST COUNTY



LEGEND

-  PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
-  PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK
-  EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



Appendix



TABLE 2

Existing Major Parks in Contra Costa County, California

1970

Name	Class*	Jurisdiction**	Size Acres	State of Develop.			Comments & Special Features
				Full	Part	None	
John Muir National Historic Site	NHS	U. S. National Park Service	5		X		John Muir Home & Martinez Adobe House
Frank's Tract	RP	State of California	3,400±		X		
Mt. Diablo State Park	RP	State of California	7,080±	X			
BSA Camp	RP	Boy Scouts of America	97		X		Also listed under Local Parks
Briones	RP	EBRPD	3,100		X		Playfields
Brooks Island	RP	EBRPD	77			X	
Contra Loma Reservoir	RP	EBRPD	772		X		Fishing in 1970
Kennedy Grove	RP	EBRPD	95	X			
Las Trampas	RP	EBRPD	1,333			X	
Redwood	RP	EBRPD	755	X			
Sibley (Roundtop)	RP	EBRPD	168			X	
Tilden	RP	EBRPD	2,046	X			Playgrounds and Playfields
Wildcat Canyon	RP	EBRPD	1,335			X	
Lafayette Reservoir	RP	EBMUD	925		X		Cycling, boating
Newhall Comm. Park	CP	City of Concord	70			X	Also listed under Local Parks
Hillside Park	CP	City of El Cerrito	148		X		Also listed under Local Parks
Stoneman Rifle Range Park	RP	City of Pittsburg	300		X		Trails, Dedicated Grove Also listed under Local Parks
Heather Farms	CP	City of Walnut Creek	67			X	Pistol & Rifle Range Also listed under Local Parks

*Class NHS = National Historic Site

RP = Regional Park

CP = Community Park

**Jurisdiction State of Calif. = Dept. of Recreation and Parks

EBRPD

= East Bay Regional Park District

EBMUD

= East Bay Municipal Utility Dist.

TABLE 3

Existing Local Parks, Contra Costa County, California

City Parks

Name	Class*	Jurisdiction**	Size Acres	State of Develop.			Comments & Special Features
				Full	Part	None	
Antioch Municipal	GC	Antioch	202.0	X			Golf Course
Fairview Terrace Park	NP	Antioch	3.0			X	
Gino Marchetti Park	NP	Antioch	6.0		X		Playground
Jacobsen Park	PG	Antioch	1.1	X			Playground
Lone Tree Park	NP	Antioch	6.0		X		
Tenth Street Park	NP	Antioch	4.9	X			Playground and Playfield
Western Div. Park	NP	Antioch	1.9	X			Playground
Brentwood Park	NP	Brentwood Pk. & Rec. Dist.	4.0	X			Playground and Playfield
Brazil Quarry		Concord	3.9			X	
Cambridge N. Park	NP	Concord	10.0				Playground and Playfield Joint Use with Elem. School
Civic Center	MP	Concord	10.0				Civic Center, Library
Concord Blvd. N. Park	NP	Concord	7.0	X			Playground
Concord Comm. Park	CP	Concord	30.0				Playground, Handball, Bocci
Concord Nature Area	NP	Concord	12.0			X	Nature Study Used by School District

Name	Class*	Jurisdiction**	Size Acres	State of Develop.			Comments & Special Features
				Full	Part	None	
Ellis Lake Park	NP	Concord	8.0			X	Boat Sailing Pond
Hillcrest Comm. Park	CP	Concord	25.0		X		Playfield
John F. Baldwin Neighborhood Park	NP	Concord	18.0	X			Playground, Playfield, Shuffleboard, Horseshoe
Meadow Homes N. Park	NP	Concord	12.0	X			Playfield Joint use with Elem. School
Newhall Comm. Park	CP	Concord	70.0			X	Major Park
Sun Terrace Park	NP	Concord	2.6	X			Playground
Todos Santos Park	NP	Concord	2.5				Playground
Willow Pass Comm. Park	CP	Concord	40.0		X		Playfields
Ygnacio Valley N. Pk.	NP	Concord	9.5		X		Playground, Playfield
Arlington Park							
Arlington Rec. Ctr.	NP	El Cerrito	5.5	X			Playground, Playfield
Canyon Trail Park	NP	El Cerrito	6.0	X			Playground, Playfield
Casa Cerrito Recreation Center	B	El Cerrito	.59	X			Camping
Castro School Park		El Cerrito & Rich. Un.S.D.					Playground, Playfield
Castro Rec. Center	NP	Rich. Un.S.D.	10.0	X			Joint use with Elem. School
Cerrito Vista Park	NP	El Cerrito	7.4	X			Playground, Playfield
Community Rec. Center & Swim Center	B	El Cerrito	2.8	X			Swimming Pool
Fairmont School Park		El Cerrito & Rich. Un.S.D.					Playground, Playfield
Fairmont Rec. Center	NP	Rich. Un.S.D.	4.1	X			Joint use with School
Harding School Park		El Cerrito & Rich. Un.S.D.					Playground, Playfield
Harding Rec. Center	NP	Rich. Un.S.D.	5.2	X			Joint use with School
Huber Park							
Huber Rec. Center	NP	El Cerrito	2.6	X			
Poinsett Park							
Poinsett Rec. Center	NP	El Cerrito	1.5	X			Playground
Hillside Park	CP	El Cerrito	148.0		X		Trails, Dedicated Grove
Tassajara Park	NP	El Cerrito	3.0	X			Playground
Lafayette Park	MP	Lafayette	.3	X			
Fairview Tot Lot	PL	Martinez	.3	X			
Hidden Valley		Martinez	20.0		X		
Highland St. Totlot	PL	Martinez	.3	X			
Municipal Pk.(Rankin)	CP	Martinez	41.0		X		Playground, Playfield
Nancy Boyd Park	NP	Martinez	4.0		X		Playground, Playfield
Playfield on Waterfront	PF	Martinez	5.0		X		Playfield
Ricks Street Park	PG	Martinez	.75		X		Playground
Susana Street Park	NP	Martinez	1.0		X		
Fernandez Park	NP	Pinole	5±	X			Playground, Playfield
Meadow Park	PG	Pinole	1±		X		Playground
No Name	NP	Pinole	8±			X	
City Gym & Teen Cent.	B	Pittsburg		X			
City Park	CP	Pittsburg	25.0	X			Playground, Playfield
Pittsburg Municipal Golf Course	GC	Pittsburg	80.0				Golf Course

Name	Class*	Jurisdiction**	Size Acres	State of Develop.			Comments & Special Features
				Full	Part	None	
Stoneman Park	PF	Pittsburg	15.0		X		Playfield, Junior Railroad
Stoneman Rifle Range Park	RP	Pittsburg	300.0				
Brookwood Park	NP	Pleasant Hill Pk. & Rec. D.	8.0				
Civic Center & YMCA	NP	Pleasant Hill Pk. & Rec. D.	13.0				YMCA, Tennis Courts
Dinosaur Hill Park	NP	Pleasant Hill Pk. & Rec. D.	13.5			X	
Pasa Nogal Park	CP	Pleasant Hill Pk. & Rec. D.	32.0			X	
Pleasant Hill Park	CR	Pleasant Hill Pk. & Rec. D.	17.0				Teen Center, Playfield
Pleasant Oaks	NP	Pleasant Hill Pk. & Rec. D.	12.0				Playground, Playfield
Roger Smith Park	NP	Pleasant Hill Pk. & Rec. D.	4.5				Playground, Playfield
Alvarado Park	CP	Richmond	42.46				Group Camping, Group Picnics for 3,000 persons, Playground
Atchison Village	PG	Richmond	4.3		X		Playground
Belding	PG	Richmond	2.01	X			
Boat Landing Ramp		Richmond	.20		X		
Civic Center Grounds	MP	Richmond	14.91				
Clinton	PL	Richmond	.21	X			Playground, Horseshoe
Eastshore Park	CL	Richmond	19.48		X		Playfield
Elm	PL	Richmond	.47	X			Playground
Fairmede Park	NP	Rich. & Rich. Unif. Sc. D.	11.69		X		Playfield
Fifth Street & Virginia Ave.	PG	Richmond	1.61		X		Joint use with School
55th Street & Creeley Ave. Rest Stop	MP	Richmond	.06				
Hensley Rest Stop	MP	Richmond	.14				Small Rest Stop Only
Humboldt	PL	Richmond	.59		X		Playground
Humphrey	PL	Richmond	.23	X			Playground
Huntington	PL	Richmond	.34	X			Playground
Janice	PL	Richmond	.13		X		Playground
JFK Memorial Park	NP	Richmond	6.79	X			Playground, Playfield
Keller's Beach		Richmond	1.3	X			Two small sanded beaches
Kenny	PG	Richmond	1.21		X		Playground, Playfield
Kern Playlot	PL	Richmond	.28	X			Playground
La Moine-Valley View Park		Rich. Unif. Sc.D. & Rich.	13.9			X	Joint use with School
Library Pk. & Grounds	MP	Richmond	.60	X			
Lucas	PG	Richmond	1.1		X		Playground, Playfield
Maine	PL	Richmond	.17	X			Playground
Martin Luther King Memorial Park	PF	Richmond	12.87		X		Playground, Playfield, Teen Center
Memorial Park	PG	Richmond	1.61	X			Playground, Playfield Shuffleboard
Mendocino	PL	Richmond	.40		X		Playground
Mira Vista Park	NP	Richmond	1.73	X			Playground
Monterey	PL	Richmond	.45		X		Playground

Name	Class*	Jurisdiction**	Size Acres	State of Develop.			Comments & Special Features
				Full	Part	None	
Nicholl Park	NP	Richmond	21.21				Bowling Green with Clubhouse, Playfield
North Richmond Baseball Field	PG	Richmond	2.98	X			Playfield
Parchester Playfield	NP	Richmond	4.9		X		Playground, Playfield
Plaza I Park	PG	Richmond	2.15	X			Playground
Plaza II Park	PG	Richmond	.59	X			Playground
Point Molate Beach		Richmond	15.0		X		Sand Beach Area
Point Richmond Comm. Center		Richmond	.52				Fire Station #1, Comm. Center, Library
Richmond Golf Course	GC	Richmond	152.0				Golf Course
Richmond Municipal Plunge Grounds		Richmond	1.50	X			Swimming Pool
Rifle Range		Richmond	1.77				
Shields	NP	Richmond	2.18				Playground, Playfield
Solano	PL	Richmond	.20		X		Playground
Stewart	PL	Richmond	.84		X		Playground, Sandlot Softball Field
Tiller Playground	PG	Richmond	2.66		X		Playground, Playfield
Turfed Triangle	MP	Richmond	.08				Turfed Area Only
Virginia	PL	Richmond	.17	X			Playground
Washington	PG	Richmond	2.51				Playground, Playfield, Horseshoe Ct.
Wendell	PG	Richmond	2.23		X		Playground, Playfield
Woods School Park	PG	Richmond by Contract w/S.D.	2.41				Playground, Playfield Joint use with Elem. School
Davis Park	NP	San Pablo	16.0				Playground, Playfield, Day Camp
Kennedy Plaza	NP	San Pablo	3.5				Playground Concerts on Schedule
Brooktree Park	NP	Walnut Creek	3.0			X	
Civic Park	NP	Walnut Creek	11.0	X			Playground, Playfield
City Golf Course	GC	Walnut Creek	160.0				Golf Course
Heather Farms	CP	Walnut Creek	67.0			X	
Larkey Park	CP	Walnut Creek	11.0	X			Playground, Pet Library
San Miguel Park	NP	Walnut Creek	5.0		X		Tennis Courts

Recreation, Park Districts and Civic Groups

Name	Class*	Jurisdiction**	Size Acres	State of Develop.			Comments & Special Features
				Full	Part	None	
Ambrose Park	CP	Ambrose Park & Rec. Dist.	15.0	X			Teen Center, Playground, Playfield
Crockett Park	NP	Crockett Park & Rec. Assn.		X			Tennis Courts, Swimming Pool
Lion's Club Park	NP	Private	6±				Playground, Playfield, Horseshoe
Rodeo Park	NP			X			Joint use with Elem. School

Private Parks

Castle Rock Park		Private	16.0	X			Playfields
Curry Creek Park		Private	34.0	X			Playfields
Mitchell Canyon Park		Private					
Russelmann Park		Private					
Turtle Rock Ranch		Private	65.0		X		Playground, Playfield

Private Golf Courses

Name	Class*	Jurisdiction**	Size Acres	State of Develop.			Comments & Special Features
				Full	Part	None	
Bethel Island Public G. C.	GC	Private	140.0				
Buchanan Field	GC	Private	35.0				
Carrol	GC	Private	12.0	X			
Concord Golf Course	GC	Private	135.0				
Contra Costa G.C.	GC	Private	160.0	X			
Diablo Golf Course	GC	Private	126.0	X			
Franklin Canyon	GC	Private	203.0				
Heather Farms	GC	Private	80.0	X			
Mira Vista Country Club & Golf Course	GC		141.0				
San Ramon National Golf Course	GC	Private	110.0				
Pine Meadow	GC	Private					
Reliez Valley	GC	Private	50.0	X			
Royal Oaks Country Club	GC	Private	280.0±			X	

Other Recreation Facilities

BSA Camp, El Cerrito	Boy Scouts of America	18.0	X			Overnight Camping Facilities
BSA Camp	Boy Scouts of America	97.0	X			Overnight Camping Facilities
Riding & Hiking Trail	State of California					

*RP = Regional Park
CP = Community Park
NP = Neighborhood Park

MP = Minor Park
GC = Golf Course
PL = Playlot

PG = Playground
PF = Playfield
B = Building Only

**"Private" includes individuals, service clubs, associations, etc. Cities are given by name only.
EBRPD = East Bay Regional Park District
EBMUD = East Bay Municipal Utility District
State of California = Division of Beaches and Parks

Prepared by the Contra Costa County Planning Department - September 1970 data

THIS REPORT was prepared by the Contra Costa County Planning Department under the direction of Anthony A. Dehaesus, Director of Planning.

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The value of this report was enhanced considerably by the excellent cooperation and assistance given by staff members of all fourteen cities, as well as representatives of the Ambrose Recreation and Park District, Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District, Valley Community Services District, East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utility District and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

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